

the johns hopkins NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

VOLUME CXXI, ISSUE XV

WWW.JHNEWSLETTER.COM

FEBRUARY 9, 2017

Over 500 waitlisted for comp sci classes

By JACOB TOOK
Staff Writer

The computer science (CS) department is struggling to accommodate an unexpected surge in student interest for CS courses this spring semester.

In an email sent to CS students on Jan. 27, Joanne Selinski, the department's director of undergraduate studies, reported that out of the total 2,000 available seats filled, there were 500 waitlisted students.

As a result, some students are concerned about whether they will be able to graduate on time.

Selinski said that the shortage is partially due to greater student interest in computer science.

"We don't control who wants to take our classes; we don't control who comes into the major or minor, so once they do, then we have to find a way to accommodate them," she said.

She explained that this

semester's over-enrollment was due to the unexpected number of students who had switched into the computer science major or added it as a second major.

Sophomore Jack Karyo, who described the situation as a gross miscalculation, stressed that it was still not the department's fault.

"They don't have the say over who can change

"It's always a little disheartening to see the classes you want... fill up before you're given the chance."

— ALEX KNOWLTON,
CS MAJOR

into what majors," he said. "They really just didn't see this influx into the computer science major as a whole, which caused these classes to be totally over-filled."

Karyo attributed the rising interest in computer science to the booming technology sector.

"The tech industry as a whole in recent years has just been exploding, and there are more and more open computer science jobs that need to be filled," he said. "They just didn't do a great

SEE CS, PAGE A5



COURTESY OF KUNIL MAITI

Hopkins MFA graduate Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (right) spoke out against the institutionalization of dehumanizing language in the United States.

Adichie urges students to fight climate of hate

By JACOB TOOK
Staff Writer

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, renowned author, social activist and Hopkins alumna, spoke about the normalization of hate in the United States. She also reflected on her own literary works on Wednesday, Feb. 8 as part of the Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS) in Shriver Hall.

Adichie has written several notable books, including *Purple Hibiscus*, *Half of a Yellow Sun* and *Americanah*. She also delivered the highly pub-

licized TEDx talk "We Should All Be Feminists," which was sampled by Beyoncé in the artist's 2013 track "Flawless."

Adichie's talk addressed the current political environment in the United States following the recent divisive election, relating it to her home country of Nigeria.

"As a person who grew up in Nigeria, political uncertainty is familiar to me. What I've found myself thinking is how fragile America's concept of itself is," she said. "There's an undercurrent of assuming that things will be okay, and I think that's a dangerous assumption to make. I question the silence of certain spaces and people."

She believes that hate-

ful and divisive rhetoric, often hidden under the guise of ideology, has resurfaced in the United States.

"I simply refuse to engage with conversations that involve dehumanizing people," Adichie said. "If you claim that certain groups of people are deserving of terrible treatment because they are less human than others — which is the undercurrent of a lot of the rhetoric around the way black people in this country have been treated institutionally — that's an unacceptable dehumanization."

Throughout Adichie's career, critics have accused her of being needlessly angry whenever advocating for feminism

or protesting against racism. For Adichie, channeling anger toward positive social change often leads to the most successful and dramatic outcomes.

She applauded those who have used their anger to march and protest against injustice.

Adichie said that the backlash she faced because of her activism only reinforced her beliefs.

"There is a lot of horrible hostility that comes because one is an outspoken feminist," Adichie said. "If the condition for your love is that you cannot accept my being equal to you, then I don't want your love."

Adichie also encouraged people to use their

SEE FAS, PAGE A7

Contract workers demand living wage

By SAM FOSSUM
News & Features Editor

Roughly 60 students, dining workers and security guards surprised University administrators on Friday, Feb. 3 by holding a protest in Garland Hall. They demanded new policies benefitting all contract workers, who are not directly employed by the University.

The group of protesters, known as the Student-Labor Action Coalition, are calling for a meeting with University President Ronald J. Daniels to discuss their three demands.

The first is that contract workers will have guaranteed job security when the University changes contractors. The second demand is for the University to ensure all contract workers receive a \$15 per hour minimum wage. Third, the Coalition demanded that contract workers receive a housing benefits program similar to the "Live Near Your Work Program," which provides grants and assistance for direct University employees to buy and find housing near campus.

The Coalition is a group of local trade unions and student organizations on campus. It includes Unite Here Local 7, SEIU 32BJ, the Black Student Union (BSU), Hopkins Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and the graduate student union Teachers and Researchers United (TRU).



COURTESY OF SAM FOSSUM

Protesters told Daniels "You can't hide! We can see your greedy side."

Unite Here Local 7 represents 180 of the workers employed by the University's dining service Bon Appétit, while SEIU 32BJ represents 150 workers who work for Allied Universal Security, commonly known as "Hop Cops."

Students and workers began gathering at 3 p.m. in Hodson Hall where they held a short rally before marching to Garland. The workers and students who spoke explained why they were marching, and the steps that they had previously taken.

Krista Strothmann, a Unite Here organizer, said that the march's purpose was to demand that Daniels respond to their November letter asking for a meeting to discuss their proposals.

"Together we are fighting for equality and justice at Johns Hopkins University," she said. "We are not here for one group of workers, or another, but

for all sub-contract workers on this campus."

Members from the various groups involved gave speeches to the crowd.

"We honestly just want to thank everyone for coming out and supporting us, and sticking with us through this fight because it's definitely going to be a fight," Latifah Pearson, a dining worker, said.

SEE PROTEST, PAGE A6

App to aid mental health counseling

By ALYSSA WOODEN
Staff Writer

After several semesters of debate on how to improve mental health at Hopkins, Shrenik Jain and Ravi Shah have attempted to create a new platform for counseling services.

Students have criticized the University's available resources and have looked to combat the stigma surrounding mental health.

In response to these concerns, Jain, a junior, and Shah, a graduate student, created a new mobile app called Atrium, which is meant to provide an anonymous support platform for people struggling with their mental health.

Although the Student Government Association

(SGA) has officially endorsed the app, some students are wary of its potential impact.

Users choose a therapy group to join. The groups focus on combating depression, work stress and substance abuse problems, among others. A licensed therapist sorts users into anonymous groups of five to seven peers struggling with the same issue.

Each user is individually connected with the therapist who provides professional advice and support. Participants join weekly group counseling sessions over voice chat and can message their group at any time.

The app's anonymity is intended to allow users to talk and receive feedback

from peers and professionals without worrying about judgment or stigma.

Atrium has not officially been released, but the developers will launch a beta version on the Hopkins campus in the coming weeks.

Jain first came up with the idea for Atrium while working with fire departments and rescue squads as a first responder, where he witnessed patients and emergency workers suffer the consequences of untreated mental illness.

"While I naturally saw patients afflicted, what surprised me more was how effective social stigma was at keeping people out of care," Jain wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "I

SEE ATRIUM, PAGE A6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A shortage of female directors

The lack of female directors is obvious. Even all-female cast movies like *Ghostbusters* have male directors
OPINIONS, PAGE A11



Mountains of challenges

Copy Editor Diva Parekh recounts her frightening, yet uplifting journey to Machu Picchu. VOICES, PAGE A9

New Big Sean album is his best

Nikita Shtarkman reviews Big Sean's new album, *I Decided*, a massive improvement from previous releases. ARTS, PAGE B3

NEWS & FEATURES

Prof. tells the history of cities and capitalism

By KAREN WANG
Staff Writer

Erica Schoenberger, a professor of Environmental Health and Engineering, gave a talk called "The Non-market Origins of Markets, Capitalism and Creative Cities" in Ames Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 7. Schoenberger's lecture, which is a part of the M. Gordon Wolman Seminar hosted by the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering, focused mainly on the development of markets.

She provided a brief history on the importance of trade and argued that the need would arise for a type of currency that did not reveal as many drawbacks as gold and silver.

"The standard

story of where markets come from, and from markets to eventually full-blown capitalism, is that it starts with the human propensity to exchange," Schoenberger said. "This starts out with barter, which everyone agrees is inconvenient and kind of lumpy. Pretty quickly people work out ways of coming up with a universal equivalent for exchange."

Schoenberger then elaborated on the impact of trade and the early rise of agglomeration.

"With a money economy, we have much denser networks of exchange. Therefore, much greater possibilities for an increasingly funded division of labor, therefore more productivity, therefore more people coming together in cities to facilitate things at stages," Schoenberger said. "And each personality is only part of a thing and not the whole thing, so we call these agglomerations. And agglomeration economies are meant to reduce transactions and work in cities."

Schoenberger also discussed the non-market drivers of urbanization and innovation, as well as the concept of managing resources across space and time. She presented the example of the fortress Château Gaillard, which was rapidly built in the 13th century during a time of warfare.

"If you're building a fortress for military reasons you have to do it fast. You can't take 65 years to do it," Schoenberger said. "This is an example of how the exigencies of warfare and the exigencies of state projects, which are not connected at all with building markets... end up marketizing a society, because that's the fastest and best way to get [the building] done."

According to Schoenberger, people tend to see opportunities for the growth of markets as they grow towards them, and war often acts as the most lucrative catalyst for such an opportunity.

"The projects of kings and princes, of popes, everybody who's trying to manage resources across large territories — what they need is liquidity," she said. "And that's what actual cash

money and markets give you, because they have a lot of lumpy, stationary wealth."

Schoenberger explained that the Crusades also contributed to the growth of a market economy, as the church managed resources across territories. An increased imposition of church taxes moved resources towards a concentrated area, and the Crusades forced many to convert fixed resources like land into mobile resources as a means of funding their expeditions.

Schoenberger then explained the impact of warfare in a more modern context, particularly the economical and industrial effects of World War II.

"By the end of the war, the federal government actually

owned 40 percent of the industrial infrastructure in the United States," she said. "That means that a lot of the investment, a lot of the geographic outcome of this investment, a lot of the urbanization that happens [as a result of] these investments, is again driven by the logic of the state and is heavily influenced by the logic of warfare and not by the logic of capital investment."

Relating the growth of the market economy to the rise of big cities, Schoenberger revealed the dangers that urbanization posed to public health.

"Living in cities for a long time is extremely unhealthy. Cities are themselves extremely creative places, [and] being in cities simply creates lots of ideas, lots of exchanges, the more people you have together the more ideas you have, so cities are just fountains of ideas," Schoenberger said.

She then expanded on the specific traits of cities that caused them to be a threat to public health, and the distinctive ways new innovations must address those concerns.

"We can't think about cities as just containers for agglomeration economies. It's a physical place, it's an ecological place, and it's human place with mass occupancy," she said. "Urban innovations [include] moving huge amounts of water from one place to another, and also new methods of financing all of this new infrastructure developments. These are not just [stagnant] innovations, they have continuing evolutions because the problems themselves continue to evolve."

Nicole Cohen, a senior majoring in environmental engineering, shared her thoughts on the relationship between the growth of markets and the impacts on the environment.

"The economy and the environment seem like opposing ideas," Cohen said. "For the most part, you always have bad, ulterior motives when it comes to the environment in order to create successful markets. It'd be interesting to see a good relationship between the two."

Fairman discusses art of medical illustrations

By JEANNE LEE
For The News-Letter

Jennifer Fairman, associate professor at the Department of Art as Applied to Medicine, spoke about the role of art in medical practices in the Bloomberg Center on Wednesday as part of the weekly JHU Visualization Discussion Group lecture.

Fairman explained the purpose of her work involving medical illustration.

According to Fairman, medical illustrators are artists with a background in both science and visual art who create drawings that both explain and depict scientific information.

An example of this sort of art would be a drawing of an anatomical structure, such as a skull. She explained how their illustrations are rooted deeply in accurate scientific observations.

"Our illustrations can be thought of as art that teaches," she said. "We provide medical illustration and design services to the community, which consists of medical and biological illustration. We'll go to the [operating room] and observe surgery and illustrate surgical procedures."

Before coming to Hopkins, Fairman worked as a science illustrator at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. She is the founder of her own biological visual communication services, Fairman Studios.

"We put together medical illustration and

animation services for the community, for researchers, and for patient education," Fairman said.

Fairman also provided background history on the Department of Art as Applied to Medicine, which is a part of the Hopkins medical campus.

"Our department started with Max Brödel, who came from Germany when medical school was being founded," Fairman said. "What he did was visualize medical procedures that you can't take a picture of."

She continued to explain that the Department of Art as Applied to Medicine offers a two-year graduate program as well as offering illustration services for researchers in the community.

Throughout her talk, Fairman displayed a portfolio of illustrations that ranged from instructions for surgical procedures to science magazine covers.

She continued to present some of her work and the processes that went behind each of her pieces.

Fairman described an infographic on genetics she created for the Bloomberg School of



COURTESY OF SAMANTHA SETO

Professor Fairman emphasizes that accuracy in medical illustrations is paramount.

Public Health.

"This particular piece took eight weeks," Fairman said. "I would say that it took about six weeks to research, and two weeks to illustrate."

She explained that creating these illustrations was a very collaborative effort with scientists and researchers.

One illustration she did for the process of malaria, for example, consisted of collaboration with two different researchers.

"One scientist specialized in the mosquito stage, while another specialized in the blood stage," she said.

In contrast, another illustration she had done for a magazine involved collaborations with 12 scientists, an art director and the editor of the magazine.

"It's interesting to see that scientists specialize in so many different fields of study," she said.

Fairman explained the tools that she and her students use to create these illustrations.

"Many of our graduate students like to use iPads. It's more sterile than bringing pencils and erasers into surgical rooms."

Other times, Fairman prefers to use a tablet with a stylus.

For some sketches she draws them by hand and then scans them into a digital format.

In creating medical illustrations, Fairman explained that accuracy is the most important. This applies especially to animations for surgical procedures.

"Accuracy is more important than aesthetics in our illustrations," she said.

Some of her illustrations, such as one that z-ring of a bacterium, required a large amount of data from a protein data bank.

Other illustrations, such as those used for science grant proposals, were more simplified.

"It's also important to know who your audience is, and it's important not to overcomplicate things," she said.

Fairman advised undergraduate students to keep an open mind when pursuing their goals, because career plans could change at any moment. Like many students at Hopkins, Fairman was interested in going to medical school.

"Keep an open mind. Thinking back to when I was in college, my path was convoluted," she said. "I was interested in going to medicine and pediatrics, but I was always interested in art. I never put the two together until I happened upon this profession by accident. When I discovered it, I knew I wanted to do it."

Fairman advises students to continue to pursue what intrigues them.

"Take advantage of things that interest you the most. Opportunity begets opportunity. Go to lectures and clubs that have to do with the area of study you're interested in," she said. "And most importantly, never cease your desire to learn every day."



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Medical illustrators based their drawings off of scientific observation.

Tycher steps down as SGA executive treasurer

By HANA KADIR
For The News-Letter

The Student Government Association (SGA) elected Kenneth-Von Blackmon as the new executive treasurer at their weekly meeting in Charles Commons this Tuesday. The election followed the announcement that former Executive Treasurer John Tycher would step down from his position after his decision to go abroad in the spring 2017 semester.

Out of three nominees, SGA elected Blackmon by a majority vote.

Blackmon was not present at the first SGA meeting of the semester. SGA Executive President Charlie Green read aloud from an email Blackmon sent confirming his new position.

"It is an honor to receive the position of executive treasurer as I have due respect for the entire SGA executive board and understand the responsibility that

comes with being a leader of the student body," Blackmon wrote.

Previously a member of the Student Activities Commission (SAC) and Academic Ethics Board, Blackmon said he hopes to fix budget inefficiencies as treasurer by implementing a credit rating system.

"The position of executive treasurer [gives] me the access to empirical data of student group funding to begin this credit system and implement it accordingly," Blackmon wrote.

At this same meeting, the SGA also voted to approve the Web Development Tutorial club in response to the club's appeal to be recognized as a student organization after previously being denied.

Daniel Stambler, who founded the Web Development Tutorial club, explained that the club's purpose is to host weekly workshops in web development and scripting languages that will be taught

by student mentors.

"This club would not only be beneficial for the students attending the workshops, but for the students teaching them too, as it would boost their confidence and leadership skills," Stambler said.

Junior class senator Alberto Pepe Muniz initiated a discussion on the relevancy and impact of the proposed club.

"From what we gained from the application and interview, it seemed that [Web Development Tutorial Club] is targeted towards mentoring specific students, but it didn't seem like the club would branch outside of non-members," Muniz said. "A student group has to do more than just teach students a new skill."

Junior class senator Sarah Zappone felt that the club could also help fulfill a growing need to provide resources to computer science students on campus.

"Our computer science department is overflowed

— we have too many interested student and too few professors," Zappone said. "Plus, [the department] doesn't currently offer web development courses."

Sophomore class senator AJ Tsang agreed that this group could bring positive change to campus.

"Computer science is a very non-diverse field," Tsang said. "By having a student group on campus that is dedicated to the code-based aspects of programming we can really expand the inclusivity of not only web development at Hopkins, but around the world too."

Zappone argued that having a centralized web development resource is essential for Hopkins students.

"We should be grateful; Our school isn't providing this niche, and we have students banging on the door offering to fill the gap," Zappone said. "We're pretty lucky."

NEWS & FEATURES

Students welcome new social space on campus

By MORGAN OME
Layout Editor

The new student union space and dining facility, the LaB, opened on Feb. 3 in the Homewood apartments building.

It joins a cohort of other student union spaces including Levering Hall, the Mattin Center and Nolan's on 33rd that serve as social areas.

The LaB's location has been empty for several years and was formerly a Ruby Tuesday restaurant.

In the fall of 2015, design and renovation began. The University completed construction shortly before the Feb. 3 opening.

JHUnions, a program within the Office of Student Leadership and Involvement, has been heavily involved in promoting the LaB.

JHUnions has led hard-helmet tours during construction and invited students to vote on elements such as tile and furniture design. They plan on using the LaB for programming events.

Coordinator of Union Programming for JHUnions Caitlin Tumey explained the purpose of the LaB and of student union spaces in general.

"A student union is a place for students to socialize, to be together. It's very much the center of the social life of campus," she said.

Tumey also touched on how the LaB is different from other student spaces on campus due to its distinct location and theme.

"The atmosphere itself is setting it apart from other spaces," she said. "[It's] kind of a fun, whimsical play on the idea of a lab."

She also emphasized how there was a space available for more student events.

"This space in Homewood apartments had been sitting empty for years, and so this was an opportunity to revitalize that space and to transform it and bring this unique environment to campus," she said.

The scientific lab theme is visible through the interior design and furnishings. The Bon Appétit workers wear navy lab coats. Beakers and chemistry-inspired posters adorn the walls.

Seating options vary throughout the LaB; In some sections there are colorful, cushioned ottomans and swiveling chairs. In other parts, there are bar stools and tables. A unique decorative element is the moving water wall, which features blue and purple lighting.

The LaB's spelling also relates to the scientific theme; It is inspired

by the periodic table of elements. Tumey stated that the student body was consulted when selecting the name.

"Student opinions and voices were asked throughout this entire process," she said. "I wasn't here for that whole process — I've only been here since the summer. But there was that in the design conceptualization process, going through and trying out different names."

Freshman Coco Li, a member of the programming board for JHUnions, supported the idea of having non-academic spaces available for students to take a break from studying.

"Right now, unfortunately, the most sociable area is probably either the library or the AMRs," Li said. "I don't think it's healthy to spend all the time in the library as much, as that's probably where you're going to meet people... I think it's nice to have a little change of environment."

Li expects that many students will go to the LaB for its late night dining services.

"It's open later than any of the other [student union] spaces we have on campus," she said. "Also paired with that it offers food until 2 a.m. I know a lot of students don't go to bed that early for whatever reason, but none of the dining areas allow them to have food at that time. So I think it will be helpful."

Junior Morris Mou, also a member of programming for JHUnions, appreciates the LaB's location because of its proximity to Homewood and other University offices like the Counseling Center, the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Office of LGBTQ Life.

"I feel like the new location and new setting bring the entire campus together," he said. "A sophomore in Charles Commons has Nolan's. You also have students living on campus in Homewood — what's the closest on campus dining facility that you could go to?"

Although the University's student union spaces are spread out over campus, Mou does not see this as a drawback.

"We really don't have a central student union



COURTESY OF MORGAN OME

The LaB will offer food options such as sliders and milkshakes up until 2 a.m. everyday.

space. We don't have a student union building, unlike other universities," Mou said. "The disadvantage [is] that different classes — freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors — tend to mingle less because there is not a centralized location. But the advantage of having so many sub-spaces is that it really, encourages collaboration between different student groups."

JHUnions plans on using the LaB for various programming events such as a screening of *La La Land* on Valentine's Day, an open mic night and talent show and a performance by local band The Milestones.

The LaB is open seven days a week from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Amenities include video and board games, multiple television screens, a portable stage and an outdoor terrace.

The LaB only accepts cashless forms of payment, so students can purchase food using Dining Dollars, J-Cash or debit/credit cards.

The menu features snack-style items and utilize an à la carte kiosk system for ordering.

The menu features four categories: snacks and bites, sliders, sweets and beverages. Some examples include beignets, Oreo churro bites, milkshakes made with Taharka Brothers ice cream, vegan chili, falafel sliders and Thread coffee.

There are also daily specials like \$2 milkshakes on Mondays and buy-one-get-one free coffee on Tuesdays.

The LaB's grand opening is slotted for Feb. 10, although it has been open for business since Feb. 3.

On Feb. 4, the day after the soft opening, the Second Year Experience hosted Late Night at the LaB, where students could participate in glow in the dark Zumba and various arts and crafts activities.

Freshman Grace Windheim went to Late Night at the LaB after seeing the event advertised on Facebook. She was surprised by the

ambiance and decor.

"During a building meeting, our RAs told us about [the LaB]. They described it as a no homework chill zone area

where you can buy food and hang out," she said. "I kind of pictured it as this room with some couches and regular fluorescent lighting with nothing to do. But this is way beyond what I expected."

Other students like junior Mark Scotto Di Vetta, who is an RA in McCoy Hall, also spoke positively about the LaB.

He went to the LaB both for its soft opening and for Late Night at the LaB and particularly liked the menu.

"I got the Nitro Float and nachos," he said. "It was actually really good. I was surprised. I didn't think it was going to be as good as it was. Another friend of mine got the pretzel bread and it was super soft."

Scotto Di Vetta encouraged other students to visit the LaB and to taste the food.

"I plan on coming again relatively often," he said. "I recommend that all students try the space out because I think it's really cool. The food options are great; The drink options are really good. Try the Nitro Float."

Some students, like sophomore Matthias Gompers, view the LaB's location as inconvenient.

"I haven't been [to visit] and I don't think I will be — not because I have something against it, just because it's so far out of the way," he said.

He also was not in favor of the University opening social spaces for students.

"I don't know how much good it really does for the University to just open a University-sponsored place as a social space because I feel that students will make their own social spaces," he said. "I feel like it's kind of forcing the issue a little bit."

Sophomore Jamie Shade attended Late Night at the LaB and enjoyed the recreational atmosphere.

"I think [the LaB] could serve as a great social space for Hopkins students, especially those living close to or in Homewood Apartments," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "It's a little out of the way but pretty accessible for students living in Commons or other dorms. I would probably go there for certain events but wouldn't stop by regularly."

Shade also added that she would welcome the opening of more student union spaces in the future.

"It would be awesome to have more social spaces for students so that we could have designated places to relax and have fun," she wrote.

Alum promotes black male youth education

By KELSEY KO
News & Features Editor

Hopkins graduates Mario Jovan Shaw and Jason Terrell were roommates at Teach for America and then entered the master's program the Johns Hopkins School of Education when they realized a fundamental problem: How could they encourage young black boys to continue their education or go into education, as they did? Shaw and Terrell discovered that young black boys needed to see role models like themselves in the classroom.

They founded their organization, Profound Gentlemen, which helps connect black male educators with the underserved boys of African-American communities in cities like Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Washington D.C. and Memphis. *Forbes'* 30 Under 30 list, which recognizes America's leading young innovators and entrepreneurs, recently featured Profound Gentlemen as a promising new organization.

Terrell described how both his and Shaw's personal experiences with educators within Hopkins classrooms sparked their idea to connect black and Latino teachers and students with one another. They noted that while they attended Hopkins, they saw a need for more non-white educators.

"A lot of Profound Gentlemen births from the idea that Mario met a lot of students in [Hopkins] that were really influential, doing some

great programs, and a lot of his students had told him that he was their first black male teacher that they ever had," Terrell said. "This was a similar experience for myself as well. Now we try to talk to these educators and talk to them about how we can diversify and help a lot of the isolation that boys of color feel in the classroom."

Shaw explained the concept the of the cradle-to-prison pipeline, in which black and Latino boys living in low-income communities are much more likely to end up imprisoned than their white peers. Profound Gentlemen strives to transform this reality.

"What we try to do with Profound Gentlemen is to show that this is what the cradle-to-prison pipeline looks like, and education is the opposite," Shaw said. "When you see that the majority of the prison population is made of black boys, that's a problem."

He then explained how he thought this problem should be tackled.

"So how do we reverse that?" Shaw said. "Part of that is we get male educators to lead mentoring groups of no more than 10 boys to help them in social and emotional learning as well as help them to identify several career options that they're interested in before they go to college."

Terrell explained that when he was growing up,

having black role models who emphasized the importance of education was critical to shaping his identity.

"I was always into liberal arts and reading. I knew for me, that was really important," Terrell said. "I definitely attribute my time in the classroom and my experience with education in general as helping me and influencing me."

Shaw believes that having representation in the classroom is important for black and Latino boys, because it allows students of color to forge close relationships with their teachers and envision their own possible careers.

"Representation is so important. In public schooling, [boys of color] often see a majority of white female teachers. When you do see a black male teacher, you start to think, 'I can actually become that,'" Shaw said. "There's data that shows that when you do create strong relationships with students, they achieve a lot better and it really does increase the opportunities that they have."

Shaw then went on to explain that black boys face many obstacles that keep them from getting an education.

"The sad fact is that only 50 percent of black males graduate from college. The

first [problem] is running out of financial aid. And then you see how often they change their major," Shaw said. "You want the young boys to go to college and have a bank of ideas about what they want to do. We want to

track those boys of color from kindergarten to 12th grade and see if they were able to be supported."

Shaw outlined their plans for the future. While Profound Gentlemen currently serves six regions, demand for their program is growing. Currently, they face a problem where they do not have enough staff to meet this growing demand.

"Right now, our goal is to really deepen our impact. We get a call every single day saying, 'Hey, come to Miami, come to San Francisco.' We know that there is such a need, but because there's only two of us and nine part-time staff members, it can be overwhelming for us to take on more cities," Shaw said.

When asked what he would say to a young boy of color in the American education system, Terrell stressed that it's important to believe in the power of education.

"I believe education is a civil rights issue. I think that especially in order to change communities that are distressed, education is the ultimate equalizer," Terrell said. "I would tell a student that their role is more important than the president — you can change minds, you can change perspectives. We really value that education is the ultimate equalizer, and we need more people to advocate for it and educate kids."



COURTESY OF MORGAN OME

The new student space, located next to Homewood, will serve as a place for events.

NEWS & FEATURES

Dolby shares insights on music industry

By EMMA ROALSVIG
Staff Writer

Homewood Professor of the Arts Thomas Dolby discussed his new memoir, *The Speed of Sound: Breaking the Barriers Between Music and Technology*, on the evening of Thursday, Feb. 8 at Barnes & Noble.

While reading passages from his book, Dolby shared his experiences working in the music industry, including both his individual and collaborative productions.

Dolby has worked with a number of famous musicians and icons like David Bowie, Stevie Wonder, Eddie Van Halen, Joni Mitchell and George Clinton in the past.

Dolby decided to write his memoir when a publisher asked him to write a "music business tech guru" book. For inspiration, he looked over old

notes he had scribbled down in his journals while working in the industry.

"I realized that the reason I didn't want to do the publisher's suggestion was that, with the benefit of hindsight, we've all got 20/20 vision, and what was so compelling about my journals was that I didn't know what the heck was going on," Dolby said.

In the early '90s, during the technology "gold rush," it was easy for Dolby to talk to computer and software companies. However, they were very reluctant to integrate sound and music into their products.

"Most tech companies felt that sound was a distraction. They didn't even want to put speakers in their computers because it might annoy the guy in the next cubicle when he's running his spreadsheets," Dolby said. "In fact, the only tech company that really took music seriously in computers was Apple, and they viewed Apple as a bunch of hippie dreamers."

Dolby spoke about the deal that saved Beatnik, Inc., his software company based in Silicon Valley, from disappearing.

After Japanese phones starting being created with Yamaha sound chips, Nokia wanted to make musical ringtones native to Finland. Dolby licensed technology to Nokia for his Beatnik synthesizer to co-develop the first embedded software synthesis ringtone for mass-production.

The Nokia team realized that to use a song for a ringtone without any liability, they had to choose a tune by a dead artist. They chose "Gran Vals," a waltz by Francisco Tárrega, which became the most frequently played ringtone of all time.

"When I was on the charts for 'She Blinded Me With Science,' I was known as a sonic innovator: the man who put warmth and humanity

into synthesized music," Dolby said. "I was embarrassed that now I was the guy people would blame for the global ringtone plague. Had I unleashed a monster?"

Dolby insisted that it was the detours he took in his career that forced him to be creative.

"A lot of people think that ideas like this come about because some genius sat in a garage somewhere and a lightbulb popped. In reality, I think the world is a lot more random than that," Dolby said.

Dolby teaches a course in the Film and Media Studies program and helped the University establish the JHU/MICA

Film Center, a new production space in Station North.

"I'm trying to get the students out of their comfort zone and force them to think their way around things," Dolby said.

Many of those in attendance were Hopkins professors or fans of Dolby's synth music in the '80s.

Freshman Connie Xiao came to the event because it was part of a requirement for her Introduction to Fiction and Poetry class.

"He's a really interesting person. I didn't even know he was a professor at Hopkins but to find out that he's the cause for that ubiquitous ringtone, that really annoying thing that I've heard my entire life growing up, to meet the progenitor of that is mind-blowing," Xiao said. "Only at Hopkins, am I right?"

By NEHAL AGGARWAL
For The News-Letter

Students gathered in front of the Hopkins sign on N. Charles Street on Wednesday afternoon to denounce sexual assault. They stood holding signs, some of which read, "End Rape Culture," "Estimated 95% Unreported," "Silence is Violence" and "You are not alone."

The rally was organized by junior Katharine Shadlock to remind the Hopkins community to unify and take a stand against sexual violence.

"This demonstration is in response to all sexual violence on this campus. As a top 10 university, we need to do better to end sexual violence and the culture that perpetuates it," Shadlock said.

Many passersby expressed their approval, and one girl even honked her horn as she drove up North Charles, giving a thumbs up from her window.

The event was primarily organized through social media and word of mouth the day before it took place.

"The organization process happened very quickly for this event," Shadlock said. "From beginning to conclusion, it took less than 24 hours thanks to Facebook, text message and paper fliers."

She stressed how helpful social media was for letting people know about the rapidly organized event.

"Social media expedited the organization process," she said. "It definitely made it easier to bring so many people from different classes, different majors, different backgrounds, all together for this cause."

There were several other students there, most of whom had heard about the event through Facebook.

"Kate invited me to the event on Facebook," freshman Christina



COURTESY OF NEHAL AGGARWAL

Students gathered in front of the Hopkins sign to protest sexual assault and call for transparency.

Iruela said. "I was immediately intrigued by it because I know what a huge issue sexual assault on campuses is and how little it's been addressed."

The common consensus at the rally was that there needed to be more discussion on sexual violence at Hopkins. Some in attendance referred to the email that Executive Director of Campus Safety and Security Lee James sent on Tuesday afternoon.

The email stated that an investigation had concluded that a sexual assault reported on Nov. 19, 2016 did not occur. The email provided no further details.

Students criticized the email for not explaining what exactly happened.

Senior Sophia Farrugia was surprised by how little information the University provided about the incident.

"I am not going to pretend to be an expert on the situation or the context, but it was extremely hard to believe that nothing happened," she said. "I understand the constraints and the hardships on the administration, but I just think we should all be on the same team. It shouldn't be ad-

ministration against us, we should all be wanting the same thing."

Farrugia stressed how important it is to keep students in the loop.

"I think lack of transparency might be because they're afraid of blowback or whatever it is that's holding them back from telling the truth," she said. "I think we're all safer when we know what's actually happening. Lying is not making anyone safer. Pretending it's safer is not making anyone safer."

Sophomore Séamus Ryan-Johnson believes that demonstrations like this can help instill confidence in those who are scared to speak out.

"People who have been sexually assaulted don't necessarily feel like they have anyone. The biggest thing to show those people is it's 95 percent unreported," he said. "I think if people feel that there are others like them, they will be more open about it, talk to someone and have the University address their problem."

Junior Jane Ogagan expressed a similar sentiment, highlighting some of the fears faced by sexual assault vic-

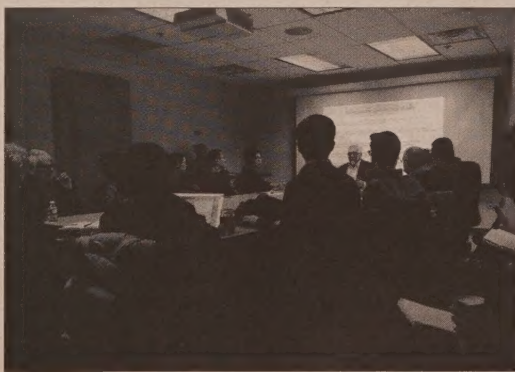
tims.

"People should be aware of rape culture on campus and people should support speaking out against it," Ogagan said. "There are people that are really fearful that they will lose friends, they'll lose communities that they're a part of. It's a really big misconception. People are here to help. The biggest issue that we have is that people are too afraid to come out and ask for help."

The student protesters gathered at the Hopkins sign wanted to show solidarity with victims of sexual assault and reiterate that it is an issue that needs to be taken seriously on campus.

"This movement today, this demonstration that we have is a response to all sexual violence that occurs on campus. We as a community need to start to come together, and we need to take a stand against injustice," Shadlock said. "I think that when we do that, we can properly address our call to action and create a change because this is beyond injustice. This is absolutely unacceptable, and it will not be tolerated any longer."

Prof. Duara analyzes challenges of global sustainability



COURTESY OF SHERRY KIM

Professor Prasenjit Duara applies transcendence to global sustainability.

By VALERIE CHAVEZ
For The News-Letter

Prasenjit Duara, the Oscar Tang Chair of East Asian Studies at Duke University, gave a lecture titled "Transcendence in a Secular World" on Monday, Feb. 6 in Mergenthaler Hall. As the first event of the East Asian Studies spring 2017 speaker series, Duara's talk centered around Asian traditions and their impact on a sustainable future.

Duara opened his discussion by framing environmental sustainability within the context of modern global challenges. By juxtaposing the crisis of sustainability with the increasing loss of transcendence in people's ideologies, he cited case

studies of sustainability efforts in Asia. Duara cited damming operations in China and forest protection efforts in Cambodia as examples.

"What I want to argue, or at least suggest, is can we think of planetary sustainability as the new transcendent goal of our time? I want to think through the conceptual and political framework understanding historical universalisms in what we call post-western modernity," he said. "The salvation of the world is much more necessary now than it was during the past."

However, along with viewing the issues of global modernity through the lens of Asian traditions, Duara still focused on the

interconnectedness of the problems and the need for global organization to help push for environmental protection. Duara's research takes a multidisciplinary approach by tying in elements of sociology, philosophy, history and other disciplines.

He discussed what he called the cyclic histories of countries and the paradox that while nations appear discrete and unique, they have more similarities than differences. He tied this discussion into the global providence of nations.

"Today, it seems to me, even more so than in the 20th century, the mismatch between globality and nations is worse than ever because no nation today is wealthy or poor because of... itself," Duara said. "It has to do with the globality of [the nation's] condition. But the problem is that notions of justice are transnational. There is this huge imbalance, so can you solve these problems individually when this mismatch exists?"

Duara noted a change in mindset that is partially responsible for the lack of global, sustainability efforts. He described modern thought as straying from what he called an "idea

universalism," as a result of the increasing emphasis placed on consumerism and nationalism.

"Modern people today don't like to use the word 'universalism,'" he said. "They prefer to call it cosmopolitanism. Call it what you will, but I think of this as a shared sovereignty. No identity can be exclusive."

Duara also focused on the importance of seeking global sustainability and noted that political and economic roadblocks cause the most damage to achieving this. He cited capitalism and the treadmill of commerce as well as individual political agendas of nations as major impediments to sustainability.

Overall, Duara said he had hope for the potential of civil society, namely environmental non-governmental organizations, to push for protecting natural resources. He noted that approximately 12 percent of the Earth is protected, and most of these sites were conserved because local groups worked to make it so. He emphasized that we must always be working to further educate ourselves on sustainability.

"We need, of course, to

devote as much time and importance to planetary sustainability in education as they do on national history and national identity building," he said.

Sophomore Jia Yao Kuek considered Duara's talk to be the highlight of the East Asian Studies speaker series thus far. According to Kuek, the breadth of Duara's research combined with the questions posed by the audience helped to make the lecture thought-provoking for all attendees.

"The cross-disciplinary themes discussed together with the incisive questions posed by the audience helped spark my thoughts on the issue of Asian religious/cultural traditions in an increasingly consumerist world," Kuek wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Kuek hopes that Duara will return to the University in the future to share more insights from his vast research.

"As an organizing member [of the East Asian Studies speaker series], I'd just like to invite professor Duara back a second time, to be honest!" Kuek wrote. "His research covers a broad range of topics — this was just the tip of the iceberg."

NEWS & FEATURES

Levy analyzes race in corporate America

By **CLAIRE FOX**
Senior Staff Writer

As part of the first annual Miriam Decosta-Willis Lecture Series, Jessica Ann Levy spoke about U.S. black empowerment in the business sphere of the 1960s and how such history is relevant today on Tuesday, Feb. 7.

A doctoral candidate in the history department, Levy focused on the impact of Reverend Dr. Leon H. Sullivan in the Civil Rights era in her talk entitled "Incorporating Struggle from MLK to Trump."

A recipient of the Dean's Teaching Fellowship, the Frederick Jackson Turner Society Fellowship and the German Historical Institute's International Business History Fellowship, Levy drew on material from her dissertation, which examines the transnational rise of Black empowerment in the U.S. and South Africa.

"I use black empowerment as a term to describe a range of government and private initiatives promoting black entrepreneurship, job training and other kinds of black commercial activity stemming out of the late 20th century freedom struggle," she said.

Instead of discussing the topic of black empowerment in a broader sense, Levy concentrated on what she calls "incorporating struggle."

"Incorporating struggle" refers to the struggle by which black struggle is appropriated by business and made to serve in the perpetuation of American capitalism locally and globally," she said. "To further elaborate on what I mean by this, I will focus on a series of initiatives led by the Reverend Leon Sullivan."

A well known civil rights leader, Sullivan became the first black director of the board of a Fortune 500 company when he joined the board of General Motors (GM) in 1971.

Levy looked into the importance of the Selective Patriots Movement, organized by Sullivan and other black ministers in Philadelphia. This movement was made for African-American workers to have better employment opportunities.

"It depended on and looked to reinforce the logic of the market," she said. "Implicit in the strategy employed by Leon Sullivan was the notion that if they could eliminate the racial barriers preventing black Americans from obtaining equal access to jobs, then the market would take care of the rest."

However, as Levy explained, this proved to not be the case. Outside of the black elite, many African Americans continued to suffer the consequences with the industrialization and capital flight long after both the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts that overturned legal segregation.

Nevertheless, Sullivan's work in creating the Philadelphia Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc. (OIC), an organization that sought to train African Americans in vocational training to advance their careers, eventually resulted in his appointment to the GM board of

trustees.

"Sullivan's appointment to the General Motors board of trustees to many symbolized the pinnacle of black advancement within corporate America," Levy said, "As a board member, Sullivan gained access to some of the highest spaces of corporate power including the company board room and in turn, Sullivan and other directors attempted to use their positions to advocate various issues affecting blacks globally and locally."

While this advocacy from within the confines of corporate management had some success, including Sullivan's ability to negotiate more hiring of black managers and salespeople, Levy also discussed its limitations.

"In exchange for the concessions on hiring and the other kinds of black empowerment, General Motors leveraged Sullivan's appointment to boost the company's own image as a leader of racial relations and corporate social responsibility," she said. "Ultimately then, Leon Sullivan's story helps to illuminate the various ways American business appropriated black struggle to further their own image and to legitimize American capitalism."

Levy stated that learning about this incorporated struggle helps us understand the current state of events in America.

"There are certain similarities between our present moment and the era in which people like Sullivan operated that can help guide us in the search for new strategies that can help to combat the continued attack on marginalized people locally and globally," she said.

One of these lessons, according to Levy, is that individuals need to remain critical of those who claim to speak for marginalized people.

"In recent weeks, Donald Trump has surrounded himself with an ever-growing circle of black celebrities and notables with figures like Kanye West, Steve Harvey and Ben Carson," she said.

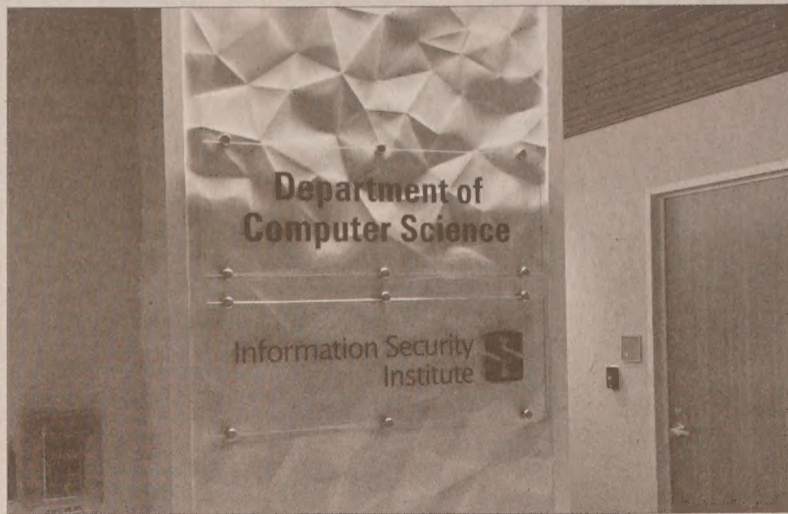
Levy criticized the actions of these public figures and how their actions might affirm Trump's claims.

"Many of these figures insist they merely want to hear what Trump has to say, and yet, as with Sullivan's appointment to the GM board, the high visibility of these meeting, the photo ops, the men shaking hands and smiling alone helps to bring certain legitimacy to Trump's claims to represent all Americans regardless of race," she said.

In response to Trump's recent remarks on Frederick Douglass, Levy stated that it is important not to dismiss these blunders as mere acts of stupidity, as it is up to citizens to recognize such acts and act upon them.

"Instead, we must critique them for what they are: appropriations of blackness by Trump officials in effort to legitimize his presidency," she said. "Looking forward it is further on us to respond to these misappropriations."

Students react to overenrolled CS department



COURTESY OF SAM FOSSUM

The computer science department, located in Malone Hall, has experienced an increase in popularity.

CS, FROM A1
job predicting how fast it has been growing."

Some of the growth in the department comes from students in other majors like biomedical engineering who need to take computer science courses.

"There's so many non-declared CS people taking our classes," Selinski said. "That puts an extra burden on what's going on. If a senior decides they want to take a course, that's great, but they register first, and then someone who's in the major might not get into a course, and that's not so great."

When asked if she thought they should limit enrollment within the department, freshman Coco Li advocated for keeping open admittance, but she identified another problem.

"If they are able to get people to teach those classes, I don't see why not," Li said. "The only problem is it's incredibly hard to get TAs for basic-level CS classes. CS people want to teach upper level classes, and then you're left with a lot of people who don't want to TA because of the time commitment."

Karyo also identified a problem with the availability of teaching assistants in the department.

"I do understand that's a problem they have in the department, but they've got to do something to fix it," Karyo said. "Maybe through increasing the motivation for students to become TAs, because a lot of TA jobs have awful pay. That's going to dissuade [students] from being a TA as opposed to going out and getting an internship."

Selinski said that she also saw the lack of teaching assistants as a large challenge to overcome, pointing out that an increase in teaching faculty wouldn't help without a tandem increase in TAs.

"Our PhD students have no problem getting research funding,

so they don't need to work as a TA," she said. "We try to hire our own students to help out as course assistants, but I can't force a junior or a senior to be a course assistant."

Selinski also said that the department usually hires about 90-100 course assistants per semester but that this was not enough to accommodate demand.

Most of them are undergraduates or Master's students, but usually there are about 20 PhD students too. She said that they were struggling to determine how to close that gap.

Li indicated that she was happy to see that the department was working towards a solution.

"They expanded class sizes for Intermediate [Programming], and I think they took off the limit for CS-only Data Structures," she said. "They sent out an email saying they are talking to the school about expanding the CS program classes, and I think they're doing a pretty good job to make sure that CS students are able to get their major requirements done first."

Although she is concerned about students being able to meet graduation requirements, Selinski said part of the

problem stems from a disparity in course popularity.

"Part of the problem is the electives," she said. "There are certain ones that are popular, and there are certain ones that are not as popular. It's not that there aren't courses to take, it's that they can't always take the courses they want to take."

Selinski identified the popularity of certain courses as the reason that demand for some classes became so high.

"We can't accommodate every student in all the popular courses," she said. "It's not that you're not going to graduate, you just might not graduate with exactly the set of courses you want."

However, Selinski identified one policy that the department is considering implementing on enrollment next semester which would protect the interests of the program's majors.

"The idea is that for the initial registration period, we make things CS students only so that they have priority," Selinski said. "Not something that any of us want to do, but we might not have a choice. We definitely have to protect the interests of the people

that are declared so that they can graduate on time."

Sophomore Lalit Varada, who is a computer science minor, has personally witnessed students being affected by the problem of overenrollment within the CS department.

"I have seen senior and Master's students ask the professor to be added to class as they cannot graduate without the class," Varada wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "I am lucky as I still have some time; But it must be a stressful time for those who need to be in those classes."

Varada expressed his frustration with the situation.

"It's outrageous that the waitlist is the size of the class, and I don't think it was like this in the fall," he wrote.

Sanat Deshpande, who recently switched majors from biomedical engineering to computer science, agreed with Karyo that students are becoming increasingly more interested in computer science.

"There's been a movement of a lot of people taking CS classes or switching over because of the increasing trend of CS being seen as useful for any field, which it is," Deshpande said.

Despite the ongoing struggle within the department, sophomore Alex Knowlton, a CS major, identified positive aspects of the situation.

"It's always a little disheartening to see the classes you want to take fill up before you're even given the chance to apply for them," he wrote. "But in another sense, it's kind of cool to be in a department that is so active and so sought-after."

He wrote that the leaders of the department are optimistic about its future, and that he shared their sentiment.

"We have a new building, are getting more new faculty each year and have students and professors that are clearly motivated and eager," Knowlton wrote. "The slight hiccups are a small price to pay while the department evolves to meet the nearly insatiable need."

"The slight hiccups are a small price to pay while the department evolves."

— ALEX KNOWLTON, SOPHOMORE

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PRESENTS

Thanks to all of the students who applied to be the Writer/Editor for this feature. The applicant pool was amazing. Unfortunately, we had only one position to offer and I am happy to say that our new staff writer will begin with next week's edition. Yay!

TIP: Building a skill-set is not limited to 'paid' work experiences. So when creating your student job application consider the skills you learned volunteering, playing a sport, being a member of a school club, etc. I bet you have Good Listen Skills, Team Dynamics, Leadership Skills, Communication Skills, and Social Media Skills.

This weeks Job Ops

- Job #10404 - Library Assistant/Cataloger, \$12/hr, 8 - 19 hours per week
- Job #10397 - Office Assistant for Engineering, \$10/hr, 5 - 10 hours
- Job # 7646 - Research Assistant for SOM, \$10/hr, 5 - 10 hours
- Job #10407 - Clerical Assistant for the JHU Press, \$9/hr, 8 - 10 hours
- Job # 3812 - Campus Delivery, SOM, \$11/hr, 12 - 20 hours
- Job #10398 - Research Assistant for SOM, \$11/hr, 5 - 10 hours
- Job #10385 - Social Media Assist, Physics, \$10/hr, 10 - 20 hours
- Job #10403 - Paid Internship, Student Leadership & Involvement, 10 - 20 hours

To see these and other student jobs ops, go to www.jhu.edu/stujob > Job Search

NEWS, NEWS, NEWS

W-2 forms are ready. Don't waste time at the mailbox. You can go to the web and print your W-2 electronically @ <https://portal.johnshopkins.edu/w2/>

NEWS & FEATURES

Unions and student allies demand rights for contract workers



COURTESY OF ALYSSA WOODEN

Protestors gathered in Garland Hall on Friday to advocate for the rights of Hopkins sub-contract workers.

PROTEST, FROM A1

Junior Jessa Wais, an SDS member, argued that the University has a responsibility to its workers given its role within Baltimore.

"To quote President Daniels again, the health and well-being of Johns Hopkins are inextricably linked to the physical, social and economic well-being of Baltimore," she said. "What better way to prove our commitment to Baltimore, to the well-being of Baltimore and to the well being of Hopkins than to treat our workers with dignity and respect?"

Wais stressed that the University should be setting an example for all employers and that it matters how Hopkins treats its contract workers.

"We aren't just fighting for workers rights, we are fighting for their families, we're fighting for neighborhoods, for the city of Baltimore and for our future," she said.

Following the rally, the protesters marched to Garland Hall, where they occupied the lobby, held signs and chanted, "What do we want? Equality! When do we want it? Now!" and "President Daniels you can't hide, we can see your greedy side."

About a half a dozen workers and students then broke off and headed up to Daniels' office to deliver their November letter and demand a meeting to discuss their proposals.

Someone in the office then locked the door, as protesters continued to chant outside and pound on the door and windows. After a few minutes, James Page, interim Chief Diversity Officer, approached the protesters.

Page told the protesters that Daniels was not in his office, but Page agreed to take their letter and deliver it to Daniels. Page later explained what happened to *The News-Letter*.

"I'm not really familiar with the exact situation, but Krista [Strothmann] told me she wrote a letter to Daniels and she hadn't received a response," Page said. "[She] wanted me to deliver this to President Daniels and also see about getting a brief conversation, and I told her that we would do the best we can about those two requests."

The protesters agreed to disband and they left chanting, "We'll be back! / greedy / We'll be back!"

Donald Lee, who has worked on campus for 13 years and currently works in Levering Hall, spoke about why it is important the University

listens to the Coalition's demands.

"We all deserve more than a sinking way to live. The cost of living is going up and our pay seems to constantly be going down, and it's completely unfair. Over 35,000 employees in the state of Maryland work for Johns Hopkins," he said. "It's unfair how we come in here, we give it our all, and we don't get the proper respect we deserve."

Vice-Provost for Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger explained that the University did respond to the two student groups who co-signed the November letter. However, they did not respond to the letter's other co-signers.

Shollenberger stressed that contract workers are not directly hired by the University, which is why they do not receive the

same support as University employees.

"Part of this issue is that the workers are contracted with BAMCO, which is the Bon Appétit organization, so they're actually not University employees," he said. "They are employees of BAMCO. Part of what they are lobbying for is that those workers have the same benefits as the University."

He also mentioned that the Union is in talks with Bon Appétit after the previous contract expired on Jan. 31. The original agreement between Local 7 and Bon Appétit was negotiated in June 2013, when the company replaced Aramark.

"We aren't at the bargaining table, that really is between the union and BAMCO," Shollenberger said. "But we certainly are in touch with BAMCO, and we want to make sure

that their employees are treated fairly, and even though they're not officially University employees, they're still members of our community."

Strothmann, along with other members of the Coalition, argued that this is not about one union but all contract workers on campus. They explained that these are sweeping policy changes that the University can implement for the contract companies it employs.

Senior Corey Payne, co-chair of SDS, attacked Daniels and his administration for their treatment of contract workers.

"We have three really kind of reasonable demands: a living wage, a guarantee of continued employment when they switch contractors and equality in housing benefits for employees that are subcontracted with those that are directly employed," he said.

Palmer, who is one of the Local 7 organizers, argued that given Daniels' compensation, the University can afford to make sure workers are paid \$15.

"You need to pay the workers at least \$15 an hour; There's no reason why he's getting paid \$3 million a year, and he can't provide that," she said.

In response to accusations that the University does not understand the purpose behind the Coalition, Shollenberger disagreed.

"We understand the campaign and would be happy to discuss the issues with our students or student groups," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Shollenberger said the University has already started talking to students about these demands.

"We have reached out to student leaders to start those conversations and look forward to opportunities to discuss the topics

being raised through this effort."

A few days after the demonstration, SDS posted a letter on Facebook updating its members following Friday's protest. The post stated that Shollenberger has reached out and that the Coalition responded by asking when they can meet with Daniels to discuss their demands.

Payne also said that undergraduates are becoming more organized at Hopkins.

"We've been picking up steam with lots of different things, and so we already have infrastructure in place to get people to turn out," he said. "It was a secret event, not one of the big rallies, and it stayed secret. We didn't have security here, President Daniels didn't know until we got in the door that we were here."

Alyssa Wooden contributed reporting.



COURTESY OF ALYSSA WOODEN

Alberta Students and workers demanded job security, higher minimum wage and housing benefits.

New app to provide mental health services for students

ATRIUM, FROM A1

watched fellow EMTs and FFs develop issues with alcoholism and PTSD and then suffer in silence for fear of judgement."

Shah, the co-founder of Atrium, provided the idea for an anonymous group chat for people struggling with mental illness, and Jain and Shah soon began work on Atrium.

They both explained how creating the app proved to be an arduous process, even though they had advisors and mentors from Johns Hopkins Medical Institutes and Johns Hopkins Tech Ventures, as well as receiving funding from several organizations. Jain recalls the toll it took on his grades and sleep schedule for over a year.

"Working full-time allowed us to build up some momentum and grow our team to reach the point of our current closed beta [at] Hopkins," Jain wrote.

The team also faced challenges in finding mentors who saw Atrium as an alternative approach to treating mental illness.

"Mental health care in general is a tough space to try and innovate in," Jain wrote. "On one hand, you've got statistics showing that 2/3 of those diagnosed with a mental illness don't receive any form of care due to issues with stigma, cost, et cetera — so the system is clearly broken."

Jain described how those involved in help-

ing people struggling with mental health problems have also been using the same methods for a very long time.

"But on the other hand, you've got therapists, insurers and healthcare administrators who are used to providing psychotherapy the same exact way for the last 40 years,

with no incentive to change," Jain said.

Although Jain and Shah eventually found psychiatrist advisors, they were initially met with a great deal of skepticism from health professionals.

"It is the job of treatment to help people based on their preferences, not conform to a provider's antiquated idea of what they are providing," Jain wrote.

John Hughes, president of the Hopkins chapter of Active Minds, is optimistic about how Atrium may help address the stigmatization of mental health.

"I think that Atrium could really help with the social impediment to positive mental health outcomes — developing the cultural literacy to have people discussing difficult and stigmatized feelings and symptoms with their peers is a long and uphill battle," Hughes wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Hughes emphasized that the anonymity that Atrium provides is important.

"Providing a controlled anonymous forum for that to take place is a huge stepping stone on that learning curve," Hughes said.

He also noted the lack of resources the Counseling Center has for students experiencing mental illnesses.

The Counseling Center can be very helpful for students dealing with acute or chronic mental health issues that they or people around them can recognize, but in addition to the Counseling Center receiving finite and arguably insufficient resources from the University, the University doesn't offer much in the way of support for students struggling with more subtle mental health issues," Hughes wrote.

Overall Hughes is optimistic about how Atrium can help tackle mental health problems that affect the student body.

"Atrium provides two major unique advantages — first, its anonymity allows students to be more frank about their issues, and goes fairly far towards breaking down stigma barriers," he wrote. "Second, it has immediacy — Coun-

selling Center (or any therapy) appointments are scheduled, going to one of the APTT rooms requires the time in the day to do so. Atrium, being an app, is available immediately."

Nevertheless, junior Alexandra Hansen has concerns about Atrium's goal of creating confidential and anonymous forums.

"I don't personally know a lot about the coding behind it, but I would really like more information about how they can truly ensure that the anonymity is secure," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Hansen also voiced that she is worried that moving mental health services to the digital realm might not be an adequate replacement for in-person counseling.

"I'm concerned because a large part of group therapy is the accountability that everyone is there for a reason, and they are a real, physical person," she wrote.

Hansen argued that putting people behind a screen may make it harder for them to talk about their problems since they might be scared about saying too much and having someone realize who they are.

She also highlighted another possible unintended impact of anonymity.

"It's been proven through different mediums that people feel less accountable to ideas than they do to people, so to make it an anonymous group takes away the per-

son and leaves behind an idea," she wrote.

SGA Executive President Charlie Green explained how the SGA has partnered with the app and is helping to promote it around campus.

"SGA has publicized the app via all school emails," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "We have a marketing commission which we use to publicize all of SGA's initiatives on campus and have been pushing out information regarding a new entrepreneurship space we have assisted in creating. We use our marketing commission frequently and are glad to have helped publicize the app!"

In spite of the initial challenges, Jain is hopeful that the app will increase access to mental health and peer support and possibly expand its influence to many other organizations like police and fire departments, the military and hospitals.

"The technology we are working on has the potential to help millions," Jain wrote. "There is something immensely rewarding in applying technology to improve the lives of patients and providers in a totally novel way. We've a long way to go until we realize our full vision, but even the validation we've received so far... is supremely rewarding."

Jain is still unsure when the team will release Atrium.

"It's too early to put a specific day for a release," he wrote. "We don't want to rush the app to scale before it is are ready."

NEWS & FEATURES

Adichie advocates for social change in America



COURTESY OF KUNAL MAITI

Adichie reflected on the nation's current political climate in Shriver Hall.

FAS, FROM AI
electoral privilege to enact change. She expressed dissatisfaction with what she described as a continuing political complacency among Americans.

She also classified her novels as a form of political expression and said that she often struggled with how she wanted to best present her thoughts.

"The act of your art is political," she said. "That you decide to pick up that pen and tell your story, whatever the hell that story is, that's enough. Writing has failed me. There are times when there are things that I want to say but I'm not saying them in the way that I want to say them, and it comes with frustration and sadness, but I like to think it's part of the process."

In discussing the year's theme of "Undercurrent," one of the three FAS executive directors Tim Shieh spoke about what separates this year's lineup.

"Traditionally, we've had a lot of senior politicians, we've had ambassadors or diplomats," he said. "This year we wanted a different take, so we have people from different backgrounds who could interpret and act against the status quo."

Sophomore Ash Panakam found the talk to be refreshing in today's political atmosphere.

"Her most salient argument was that storytelling is inherently a brash political act since it creates greater empathy and understanding during a time when many people feel dehumanized," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Freshman Bex Dansereau said that she was interested in Adichie's consideration of artistic failure, particularly given her literary success.

"I liked her interest in failure as a characterizing thing," Dansereau said. "Also her humor

when she was like, 'For me to say that as someone who's successful, I wouldn't say that it's self-deprecation, but it's self-awareness.'"

Sumera Yego, a freshman representative in the African Students Association, said that she was particularly interested in Adichie's commentary on the forms of oppression in modern society.

"People more often than not view marginalization and oppression as being very monolithic, and therefore we're pawns in this system and play no role," she said. "A lot of people forget the nuances of language and what language means. Oppression doesn't just come out of the blue."

She elaborated that it was important for figures like Adichie to call attention to and rise above the oppression faced by marginalized groups in this country.

"Though my representatives do oppress me, so do my peers every day when they disregard what I have to say," Yego said. "We have to rise above and see where we can speak up, see the non-obvious ways to step in."

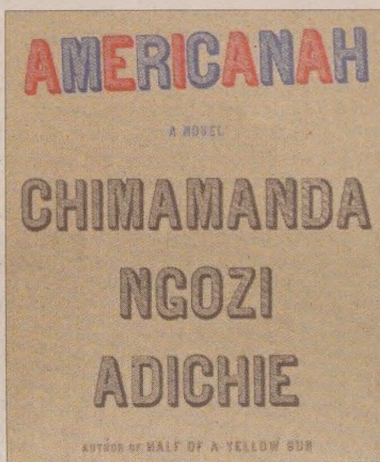
D a n -

sereau agreed, citing Adichie's sentiment about the nature of those who perpetuate oppression.

"When she said if you have something ugly inside you, you're going to be attracted to ugly things, that was when she was talking about dehumanization," Dansereau said. "Usually people say these fancy things and they don't sound true, but that sounded really honest. Hateful people are going to be attracted to hateful things."

Yego said that she found Adichie's message to be empowering.

"She's powerful in the sense that she refuses to normalize hate," Yego said. "There is no sentiment that I agree with more than that. I refuse to ever treat any view that dehumanizes people like an ideology. And I love that she inspires people to do the same."



PUBLIC DOMAIN

The cover of Adichie's acclaimed novel *Americanah*.

FAS reveals lineup for spring speaker series

By SHERRY KIM
News & Features Editor

The Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS) officially announced their speaker lineup for the spring semester on Thursday, Feb. 2. For the Symposium's 20th anniversary, they have brought together a range of speakers united around the theme "Undercurrent."

Radical feminist and founding member of the Russian punk rock protest group, Pussy Riot, Nadya Tolokonnikova kicked off the series by speaking in Shriver Hall Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Critically acclaimed novelist and black feminist activist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie spoke as part of the series yesterday night. Having completed her master's degree in Writing Seminars, Adichie is also a recipient of the MacArthur Genius Grant and the author of a number of novels.

The next speaker in the series is the Dominican-American writer Junot Díaz, who is set to speak on Feb. 22. Díaz is most well known for his book, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, which won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the National Book Critics Circle Award in the same year.

Aneesh Chopra, the first Chief Technology

Officer of the U.S., is set to speak on March 8. He served as a government official under the Obama administration from 2009 to 2012. Chopra currently works as a senior advisor at Albright Stonebridge Group, a global business strategy firm.

On April 5, the Symposium will host the Veterans Writing Project in memory of the 2009 Hopkins graduate who died while delivering textbooks to students in Afghanistan. The Veterans Writing Project will come to help share veterans' stories and host writing workshops.

Acclaimed Pakistani-Canadian journalist and filmmaker Suroosh Alvi will speak on April 12. Alvi is also the founder of VICE Media, which combines the work of journalists, fiction writers, graphic artists, photographers and cartoonists.

Finally, the Symposium will exhibit several works of Chinese artist and political dissident Ai Weiwei in the Glass Pavilion on a date that has yet to be announced.

Ai, who will not be coming to Hopkins, is notable for being arrested by the Chinese government and held for 81 days without being formally charged with a crime. He has had his works exhibited in galleries such as the Hirshhorn Museum and Tate Modern in London.



CA

become a

COMMUNITY ASSISTANT

www.NineEast33rd.com

COMMUNITY ASSISTANTS
SERVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE
THAT HELPS PROVIDE A
WELCOMING, SAFE, AND
ACADEMICALLY SUPPORTIVE
RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY
AT NINE EAST 33RD.

ONLINE APPLICATION WILL BE
AVAILABLE ON FEBRUARY 13TH
WWW.NINEEAST33RD.COM



NINE EAST 33RD



VOICES

Hopkins is a diverse university, where an incredible mix of cultures, academic interests and personalities coexist and thrive...

Why you should be listening to The xx



Hayley Bronner
Rising Ambitions

Everybody's favorite new music artists always come from the most unexpected of places, with one of those places being indie pop. Originating in London, the band The xx consists of Romy Madley Croft, Oliver Sim and Jamie Smith. The band members met at the Elliott School, which is a school with a concentration on performing arts, though they do not recall finding much support there.

At the age of just 15, Romy and Oliver formed a duet; Jamie joined soon after. In 2009, The xx released their debut album under the title *xx* with the British independent record label Young Turks. Overall, *xx* had a great reception, with it ranking as number nine on *Rolling Stone's* list of the best albums of the year.

The xx was also featured on MTV's "Top 10 Bands with Buzz" that same year. *xx* was produced by the band members themselves in a small garage. Nonetheless, not long after, in August of that same year, they were headlining their own concert tour. They played throughout Europe alongside other artists and came to North America to play at Coachella, Sasquatch!, Bonnaroo, Lollapalooza and Austin City Limits.

Right away, The xx's songs were everywhere. From television shows like *90210* and *Suits*, to the Karl Lagerfeld fall/winter fashion show in 2011, to coverage of the United Kingdom's 2010 general election and the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

With so much success already in the bag, The xx started working on a second album, which was released on Sept. 11, 2012. Since the young band members were back in their own hometowns to continue to live their normal lives, *Coexist* was highly influenced by club music, which was a little different from their first album but was still received fairly well.

The xx just released their third studio album titled *I See You* on Jan. 13. It came after much anticipation, because the band had taken longer to finish it than promised. They still pleased their fans before the release date with a shared playlist and extensive tour dates.

Once released, fans jumped for joy. Jon Dolan of *Rolling Stone* writes, "the way the vocals are strung between hope and hurt feels especially intense, as if the

singers are characters in a modern noir romance." Top rated songs include "On Hold," "I Dare You" and "Say Something Loving." The xx have not lost their touch.

As of now, The xx are in Europe, touring their way through Sweden, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, France and Austria, among many other gorgeous countries that sound more fun to be in than the Brody Reading Room.

The xx have only continued to prove that they are worth all the hype that they are getting. If you haven't heard any of their new songs yet, then I highly recommend you pick up their new album or catch them live when they come to the U.S.

They return to this side of the globe after numerous appearances in the United Kingdom, first appearing in South America (Colombia, Brazil, Argentina and Chile) and

then heading up to the United States for a tour starting in Indio, Calif.

Catch The xx as they stop in Columbia, Md. for a performance at the Merriweather Post Pavilion. Additional stops will be in Philadelphia and New York. They head back to Europe at the end of May to continue their tour in Barcelona, Spain and travel through a few more amazing countries. Who isn't jealous of their talent and lives abroad?

A look at Brexit: Could this be the flood?



Lucas Feuser
You're Up

I wish I could tell you what I knew. I know it happened, and I know it isn't over. I know it's a mess, but I don't know who will be the one falling in it later this year. I am not a fortune teller, and I'm certainly not an expert. I write because I like to, but I am not sure who I'm writing for right now.

Is this the flood? Maybe. I woke up in Paris when I got the news. It's June 24, 2016. I wouldn't call it a hangover. Those are just annoying; the kind filled with little regret and more bewilderment at your own decision-making. But like I said, this wasn't a hangover. I didn't make any decisions. I woke up in Paris with an awkward

numbness.

But why? Why did they leave? Is this the beginning of something new or are the symptoms of an old disease finally showing themselves? Better yet, why do I even care?

It's June 24, 2016. I was in London later that day. I get out of the Tube and I find myself stepping into a fog of an oh-so-familiar awkward numbness. Newspapers were everywhere, but the paperboy's enthusiasm and exuberant capitalism weren't. They were hanging from street stands like dead meat, the kind that is so still that one wonders if it ever had life in it to begin with.

Page after page was slathered with empty words. "We're Out" meant nothing, or at least no one knew what it meant. In that sense, it was pretty much meaningless. It was a silence that wiped all traces of hope into the abyss. The media had hanged itself.

But I still took one, a souvenir from ground zero. A trophy for making it out alive? I hang it in my room because I feel

my windows aren't doing me justice. Now when I want a break from thinking, I just stare at the front page hoping that will do it for me.

My eyes scour through those pages for the new world, to see what it's like. But this paper isn't really a window (yet). All I see are those same empty words lifeless on dead paper. I still don't know what "We're Out" means.

My advice is don't do what I'm doing, it's dangerous. I am trying to walk the fine tightrope between a mirror and a window. You see, it's really a matter of perception. Sometimes you look through them and other times you see yourself in them.

But this time I don't see myself. Maybe if I keep staring at it, that page will become the window I so desire. Or maybe it will become a mirror disguised as a window with a view that isn't new at all.

Until then I keep it on the wall, waiting for it to make sense. So in the absence of me really knowing anything, here's what I think. Welcome to this new column:

The U.K. looks desperate, uncoordinated and incompetent. What they do have going for them is that the winds have changed, and it's blowing right into their sails. The tides have picked up, and they've become violent, raging against the machinery of bureaucracy and culture.

The shadow of Poseidon is slowly swallowing every last stronghold of neoliberal pride. With wind in its sails and the shadow leading the way, the Brexit boat sails forth, rocking on the enraged waves of a revived god.

Poseidon is the bogey

man. It is he who sleeps under every politician's bed, even the politicians who sail under his dark silhouette. Poseidon, the god who shapes the winds of change, the god who changes the tides, is under no one person's grasp. Yet it is most comforting to be in his embrace.

You see, if he is the one who creates the hurricane that is ravaging through this world, it is in the eye of the hurricane that you want to be. That's where British Prime Minister Theresa May is, like a pet in a house fire, praying that she can keep herself right in the eye of the hurricane and go wherever it allows her to go.

But see, that's the part that gives me hope. Everyone is just trying to sail as fast as they can. No one is in a position of power. Everyone isn't on the same boat, so to speak, but they sure are all facing the same crazy storm. To shield themselves, everyone is trying to throw up the façade that they somehow have leverage, that they have a wall or a channel to protect them.

They're missing the point, because no one wins in a storm. Everyone's going to lose before anyone can even win. The shadow of a greater movement, the shadow of Poseidon, does not give anyone strength. It just clouds the status quo.

The beauty of it is that Jean-Claude Juncker, May, Nigel Farage, Donald Trump, Angela Merkel and Kanye West all know it. There is something so moving about being stuck together in this storm. There is something so human and pathetic about Brexit. This is "Ring Around the Rosie," and whether you know it or not, we're all holding hands.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

After holding a nationwide referendum, Britain decided to leave the EU.

Envisioning the potential defunding of the arts under Trump



Morgan Ome & Audrey Holt
Couch Conversations

Welcome to the couch; we hope you're sitting comfortably.

Morgan: This week, we're going to talk about the potential defunding of arts programs and the status of art in the Trump era. There has been speculation that Trump may eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), both agencies that have been around for over 50 years.

Audrey: To understand what the end of these institutions might mean, let's take a look back at their beginning. In 1965, at the founding ceremony of the NEA and NEH, Senator Claiborne Pell described the event as "the first time in our history [that] a president of the United States has given his administration support to such a comprehensive measure which combines the two areas most

significant to our nation's cultural advancement and to the full growth of a truly great society."

Morgan: Fifty years ago, the president understood the value of art. I'm not sure if that is still true today. I also wonder, how does Trump intend to make America great again by devaluing our country's art and culture?

Audrey: Many believe that Trump should defund arts programs, but it's important to recognize that the NEA and NEH do not support merely esoteric, high-brow endeavors in the shadowy corners of fine arts museums across the nation. In fact, 40 percent of NEA-supported activities take place in high-poverty neighborhoods, and 33 percent of NEA grants serve low-income audiences.

Morgan: That's a good point. NEA grants give organizations and individuals the means to bring art into their communities in relevant ways. Take, for example, the CS Mobile Unit, a collaboration between the Bloomberg School of Public Health and the non-profit Baltimore Center Stage.

The project received a \$40,000 grant from the NEA to bring professional theater productions to Baltimore-area prisons, juvenile detention centers,

homeless shelters and assisted living homes. After performances, audiences will engage in discussions about the play's issues and themes with their peers and the artists.

Audrey: See, that sounds like a really valuable project! And speaking of sharing stories, the NEH runs an initiative called NEH On the Road that brings small-scale versions of its large-scale exhibitions to smaller-scale museums, libraries and schools throughout the country.

On the Road showcases have recently included installations like *Wild Land: Thomas Cole and American Landscape Painting and Bandits & Heroes and Poets & Saints: Popular Art of the Northeast of Brazil*. A venue can submit a request to the NEH to bring an exhibition to the community for the minimal fee of \$1,000. The rest of the cost is covered by the NEH with the Mid-America Arts Alliance assisting with the logistics, publicity and maintenance.

NEH On the Road, developed in 2003, highlights the importance of bringing quality humanities programming to states, towns and populations that would not otherwise have access to it. The hosting venue also receives sample lesson plans and programming guides for each of the exhibitions.

Morgan: Honestly, I'd never heard of On the Road or the CS Mobile Unit before but that doesn't mean they're not impactful or important. It just means we need to make the public more aware of these important initiatives. Eliminating federal funding for the arts would make it more difficult for such initiatives to continue.

Audrey: Exactly. Furthermore, defunding these initiatives does not make logical sense. The combined funds currently allocated to the NEA, NEH and Corporation for Public Broadcasting account for less than a 10th of one percent of U.S. annual federal spending. That would hardly lead to big savings.

Morgan: Right, so the benefits to organizations, individuals and communities from arts programs far outweigh any minimal savings the federal government may gain from defunding.

Audrey: Of course, this is a debate we've heard before over the past few decades. For the most part, it has reached the same conclusion that we just did. So it's a bit sad to see that the threats to the NEA and NEH are once again at hand.

Back in 1965, people celebrated the opening of these two agencies. Their creation heralded in the growth of a truly great society. So what would their closing mean, and why is it being considered at all?



PUBLIC DOMAIN

NEH Chairman William Adams looks at exhibits in the LBJ Library.

VOICES

Here is the section where you can publish your unique thoughts, ideas and perspectives on life at Hopkins and beyond.

Steps to avoiding your problems:

1. Break out the laptop.

Extra points if you open it with the conviction that you're about to start doing work.

2. Open your problem set.

Or bring up that *Paradise Lost* reading you have to do. "You're about to get work done for once!" you tell yourself.

3. Open your email.

It's not quite math homework, but it's definitely something that needs to be done. Delete all the heartfelt letters from Ron Daniels. He had his chance to win you over, but three loans later you know you can't continue this toxic relationship.

4. Check Facebook.

No, you're not procrastinating, you're just checking to make sure there aren't any urgent messages before you begin working. You don't want to get interrupted halfway through a problem set, do you?

5. Open up YouTube.

It's just for music though, something cool to listen to while you're working. You take a gander at the suggested videos... An hour passes.

6. Ignore the slowly mounting guilt.

Though you can feel the disgust rising up within you, you're now in hour two of a *Masterchef* marathon and don't see yourself stopping anytime soon. There's still tomorrow for that problem set though, so instead of slamming the laptop down with righteous indignation, you settle in for the next iteration of Gordon Ramsay making fully grown humans cry.

7. It's important to remind yourself:

You aren't just being lazy, that you need this time to relax. You still have time before your Calc III homework is due, you don't have to start today. It's not laziness, it's time management. You'll manage your time later so you can do fun things right now.

The road to Machu Picchu: I almost died again



Divya Parekh
Copy Queen

Over winter break I, the human disaster, went on a five-day hike along the Peruvian Inca Trail in the Andes leading to Machu Picchu. If you know me, you know that's not something I do.

My roommates and I get into daily, 20-minute long arguments about who's going to undertake the great exertion of grabbing the TV remote to tell Netflix we're still watching. I had never camped before or even hiked, but there I was about to do the whole peeing in bushes and not showering thing for five whole days. Needless to say, I was completely and utterly unprepared for the insanity that was about to descend on me.

The adventuring company that ran the hike had a tagline that said, "The journey is the destination" and went on a giant spiel about how the journey was the best part. Not. True.

The first day of the hike, everything that could possibly go wrong did. The air became increasingly thin as we climbed. For regular people, this wasn't great. For me, a former asthmatic, halfway up my lungs decided they'd had enough. Suddenly my throat started to close up. Let's just say that didn't make my breathing any easier. When I eventually made it to the campsite that night, I was convinced

I wouldn't be able to do this. It was only the first day, the easiest day. We had four more to go.

I had two options — either keep going or walk back. There was not going to be an easy way out of this. If I was going to be walking anyway, it might as well be forward.

The map we were given labeled parts of the hike. Day two was labeled "Dead Woman's Pass." Looking at that 14,000-foot peak that we had to climb up and back down within a day, I was fairly sure I was going to be that dead woman.

Eventually I did make it to the peak. You'd think arriving at the highest point of the hike would give me this rewarding feeling of accomplishment but the only thought in my head was "everything hurts, and I'm dying," and we still had to go back down an extremely steep mountainside. Of course that's exactly when it starts pouring and the mountainside turns into a river. I was so exhausted that I fell down about every three minutes.

Miraculously, I remained uninjured. Three days to go.

The third day was when altitude sickness finally hit me, and I started to lag far behind everyone else. I was so determined not to fall again that I'd stare down at the path before me and plan out each step. When I finally looked up again, I was alone. I didn't know how far behind I was; I didn't know where my family was.

When the air is that thin, even screams of "Anybody there?" don't really carry. The altitude was making me dizzy, and I was on my way up to a 13,000-foot peak. The path was only wide enough for two people to fit side by side. One misstep means

you stumble, and one stumble means you could find yourself dangling off the edge off a cliff with no one there to help.

I continued on. I was still dizzy, and it had begun to rain again, so the stones were becoming slippery. You see what's coming. Naturally, me being me, I tripped and hit my head on the step in front of me. I wasn't hurt, but I was paralyzed with fear. I sat down on the edge of the mountain, too afraid of falling to move. Looking out into the valley, I don't think I've ever felt so alone. It was beautiful, and I had no idea what I was doing thinking I could survive it.

After what seemed like hours, the voices of two girls around my age wafted toward me. They sounded like best friends insulting each other as best friends do, and I sat there laugh-crying because of how much it felt like home.

Eventually, they got to me, helped me up and walked with me until we reached the peak. Ours wasn't a particularly deep or meaningful conversation, we just laughed and talked about nothing. Brooke and Hannah, I don't know much about you other than your names, but there is no way I would

have made it without you.

On the fourth day, I ended up lagging behind, terrified again. I kept meeting people along the way, though. I didn't know any of their names, but there was the curly-haired 20 year old from Israel who had already hiked up Kilimanjaro and wanted a new challenge; the 60-year-old lady on a day-long hike who said if she could do one day, I could do five; and so many more whose stories I don't even remember. See, that's the funny thing about being alone on a mountain. Nobody's a stranger.

In the end, it wasn't the pain or the cold I'd remember. It wasn't even the feeling of seeing Machu Picchu for the first time. It was the feeling of unfamiliar hands helping me up. It was the sound of an entire group of people I didn't know clapping when I got back up after falling and almost twisting my ankle.

So no, it wasn't the journey that was the best part. It was overcoming everything I did to get there. It was looking at Machu Picchu below me knowing that I had hiked my way through the Andes to get there. I had survived.

...And then the next day I fell off a horse.



COURTESY OF DIVA PAREKH

The hike to Machu Picchu traverses the Andes and spans five days.

Why I decided to change my outlook on gaming



Sudgie Ma
New Game

A few months ago, I'd been so pumped about the new *Final Fantasy* game coming out; I've rewatched some of the trailers so many times that I could probably quote them line by line. There was a huge nostalgia factor in my excitement for the game, since I'd been waiting for the game's release for a good 10 years. (Yes, I waited over half my lifetime for a video game.)

So when winter break started, and I finally got the opportunity to just sit down in front of my TV at home to play *Final Fantasy XV*, you bet I did. I logged in a good dozen hours or so over a few days. However, my interest kind of just fizzled out after those first few days. Between sessions of gameplay, I found myself browsing through *Final Fantasy* forums and videos.

I couldn't stop myself from reading through and watching other people's experiences with the game. Before I knew it, I was probably spending more

hours doing that than actually playing the game myself.

It was the same trap that I've gotten caught in with so many other mediums out there. One big example is TV shows. In the past few years, it's actually become difficult for me to binge watch anything anymore. For example, if I'm catching up on a super hyped-up series, I like to pretend I'm experiencing the episodes live like past viewers. I'll even pause in the middle of an intense *Game of Thrones* scene to see what other people's reactions were at the time. (Yes, I did this with the Red Wedding.)

This unfortunate habit even applies to the other end of the genre spectrum. When I'm watching an episode of *Teen Wolf*, and there's one of those "oh God yesss YESSS they're finally getting together" scenes, I can very easily pause right at that moment and just lose myself in some fanfiction based off the same scene for a few hours.

In this case, though, instead of show discussion forums I would just browse *Final Fantasy*-related material for ages on my laptop while having the game open on my TV right in front of me. Something like that would never have happened to me as a kid.

I spent eight consecutive hours playing *MapleStory* once, and I wouldn't have batted an eye at doing the

same with a *Final Fantasy* game. Nonetheless, nowadays it's a struggle to even get eight hours of gameplay in over multiple days. My attention span just isn't cut out for the grandiose but slow burn of console games anymore. That's why I actually ended up playing a different game more than *Final Fantasy XV* over break, the also newly released 3DS *Pokémon* games.

Just like *Final Fantasy XV*, for me *Pokémon Moon* had a big nostalgia factor hyping it up. More importantly, there was one big advantage the game had going for it over *Final Fantasy XV*, its simplicity.

It was a lot simpler than *Final Fantasy XV* in many ways. There wasn't much of a story to it, there was barely any danger of dying in-game and the 3DS system itself was something I could just carry around anywhere in the house. *Pokémon Moon* was something I could casually open up and close at any time.

Of course, because I've started to appreciate keeping things simple, that also meant I favored *Pokémon Moon* because it is so easy to cheat in a 3DS game as opposed to a PS4 game.

If I had to sum it up, my priorities in life have just changed as I've grown older. A good example to showcase this is my expe-

riences with a virtual pet raising site called *Neopets*. I've basically been on and off this site since the third grade. It's notorious for having ban-happy moderators and admins who seemingly want to reduce the user base for trivial things.

In the old days, I would get banned from *Neopets* because I called another user's mother fat. Nowadays, I get banned for installing web browser scripts to become a 'Neomillionaire' in a day.

Anyway, a few hours into *Pokémon Moon*, I'd already hacked myself a full team of rare and overpowered Pokémon. It's not that easy with *Final Fantasy XV*; The hacking process would take me a lot longer, and I'd probably mess up somewhere along the way.

After all this reflection about the new ways I like to experience my favorite games to play, I've realized that I've made a pretty major life decision the same way. I've basically wanted to be a surgeon my whole life because of the career's general prestige and salary, so I was thrilled to enroll at Hopkins as a pre-med.

I've realized now that you can be successful and start making plenty of cash with a job right after graduation. It's like hacking the game of life but totally legal. Being the person I am now, I'd take that shortcut over the long way without any hesitation.

the johns hopkins NEWS-LETTER

Editorials

Why we need more spots in Computer Science classes

The Computer Science department is currently facing a shortage of teaching power, with waitlists for certain classes exceeding 50 people. Many students, including CS majors and minors, struggle to get into the classes that they need in order to graduate.

The staffing shortage partially stems from a lack of graduate students serving as Teaching Assistants, something that they are currently not required to do. The department is heavily reliant on undergraduates serving as TAs and often cannot provide a sufficient number of sections for larger lectures, including introductory courses, each semester.

While the Editorial Board recognizes this acute problem, we want to make it clear that we do not blame the CS department. Admirably, the department has consistently sent out emails keeping their students up to date. Students are quick to note their appreciation of the department's transparency, but are still calling for a resolu-

tion to the problem.

It is unfair that students have to wait several semesters to take required classes, which could adversely affect their graduation plans. In our technologically dominated economy, the skills that a CS student learns are especially useful for their future careers, no matter the field. Students from all disciplines, whether they study English or biomedical engineering, have flocked to CS classes, and the University needs to recognize this growing demand.

The Editorial Board suggests that graduate students be required to serve as TAs for undergraduate classes, just as they are in many departments across the University. If social science and humanities grad students must teach classes, why shouldn't their counterparts in CS share the burden?

Given the need for TAs, we question why this is not already the case. Implementing such a policy could help alleviate the shortage of TAs, thus allowing for more sections

per semester, making it possible for more students to take their required CS courses each year.

The Editorial Board also calls on the University to provide the necessary resources for the department to alleviate its staffing shortage. As the demand for Computer Science degrees increases, it is important for the department to grow at a comparable pace.

The department already needs to hire 100 staffers each semester, and they should be given the resources to hire more if necessary. We believe the problems facing the CS department are worth the additional investments to solve.

Although no one on the Editorial Board is a Computer Science major, we still empathize with the struggle of CS students looking to meet their degree requirements. We applaud the department's efforts in maintaining transparency and hope that they will soon be able to find a solution that works well for all parties – students, faculty, and the University.

Promising Atrium app needs more professional oversight

A team of Hopkins students has created the mobile app Atrium as part of the Hopkins community's mission to improve mental health on campus. The app is designed to provide free, anonymous peer support and counseling from a licensed therapist, and it is currently in pilot testing with Hopkins students.

Users can choose to join therapy groups that address depression, anxiety and PTSD, along with other mental health difficulties, and the therapist then places the user in a group of five to seven peers.

The Editorial Board appreciates that Hopkins students are working to create concrete solutions to the serious problem of poor mental health on campus, and we commend the Student Government Association (SGA) for demonstrating their continued efforts to improve mental health by endorsing the app.

However, we are concerned that the app cannot provide the same support that in-person counseling may. We genuinely hope that Atrium succeeds, but we believe that the creative team behind the app should better explain their services and provide answers to questions about how the app will function day to day.

Our paramount con-

cern is that the app's team currently only has one psychiatrist on board. Jain admitted that it was difficult to get health care professionals to back the program, and the Editorial Board believes that the program needs more credible therapists behind it before it officially launches.

According to the Atrium website, the group's counselor conducts a weekly phone call, and outside of that time, members of the group have access to text support from their peers. We cannot predict what members of the group may say to each other through the app, and we hope that Atrium will be able to quickly respond to mental health emergencies that may arise from interactions within the app.

The website advertises that the app can detect messages of malicious intent, but it has not explicitly stated what it considers malicious and exactly what actions it may take if a user were to send messages that contain suicidal thoughts, for example.

The Editorial Board is further concerned with how the app might sort users into groups. The interface first asks users about what types of problems they're dealing with. Is there further screening and does the interface sort users solely

based on the problems they describe? What is the exact role of the licensed therapist in the grouping process?

Without further screening, Atrium could create counseling groups made up of people experiencing similar problems, but with completely different intensities. For example, it is important to differentiate between someone with clinical depression and someone who is just having a rough week.

We suggest that the team at Atrium consults with a professional body to address these concerns and any others that arise. We expect that Atrium receives endorsements from the Hopkins Counseling Center and members of the Hopkins psychiatry and psychology faculty before it officially launches.

Before Atrium can truly begin to provide support to Hopkins students and to the wider community, it should address the concerns that we have listed above.

We want Atrium to succeed, and we believe that it could help to reduce mental health stigma on campus. It could serve as a cornerstone of the University's campaign to improve mental health and could help many people address their most pressing mental health difficulties.

LETTERS & OP-ED POLICY

The News-Letter encourages letters to the editor and op-eds. *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter* reserves the sole right to edit all op-ed pieces and/or letters to the editor for space, grammar, clarity, accuracy and style. This applies to the body of the submission as well as its headline. Upon approval for publication, all op-eds and letters to the editor become property of *The News-Letter*. *The News-Letter* reserves the right to not publish any op-ed or letter to the editor for any reason, at the sole discretion of the Editors-in-Chief. Letters to the editor are limited to 250 words, must address content previously published in *The News-Letter*, and must include the author's name, address and phone number. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in that week's issue; they should be sent to chiefs@jhnewsletter.com (with "Letter to the editor" in the subject line) or the mailing address below. To write an op-ed, contact opinions@jhnewsletter.com. Op-eds are not limited in their length except as available space may dictate. All submissions may be published online as well as in the paper, and no anonymous submissions will be accepted.

Submittal of an op-ed and/or letter to the editor acknowledges your acceptance of and agreement to these policies. Any questions about these policies should be directed to the Editors-in-Chief of *The News-Letter* at chiefs@jhnewsletter.com.

the johns hopkins NEWS-LETTER

WWW.JHNEWSLETTER.COM

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF:

Will Anderson
Amanda Auble

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICERS

MANAGING EDITORS:

Jacqui Neber
Catherine Palmer

EDITORS

NEWS & FEATURES EDITORS

Sam Fossum, Rollin Hu,
Sherry Kim, Kelsey Ko

Gillian Lelchuk

OPINIONS EDITOR

Emilie Hoffer, Andrew Johnson, Gaurav Verma

SPORTS EDITORS

Sabrina Chen, Scott Zheng

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITORS

Mia Capobianco, Dubray Kinney

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITORS

VOICES EDITOR

Meagan Peoples

YOUR WEEKEND EDITOR

Veronica Reardon

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITORS

Ellie Hallenborg, Cindy Jiang, Kareem Osman

COPY EDITORS

Audrey Holt, Diva Parekh

CARTOONS EDITOR

Stephanie Herrera

LAYOUT EDITOR

Morgan Ome

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Jane Jeffery

BUSINESS STAFF

CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER

Abby Biesman

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Arshad Ajani

TECHNOLOGY STAFF

WEBMASTERS

Jenny Wagner, Elaine Wong

SENIOR STAFF WRITERS: Amy Han, Anne Hollmuller, Claire Fox, Peter Ji, Will Kirsch, Duy Phan, Joan Yea

STAFF WRITERS: Tara Abrishami, Hayley Bronner, Paige Frank, Zach Jaffe, Lily Kairis, Ashley Kim, Annabel Lyman, Adarsha Malla, Tariq Omer, Aneeka Ratnayake, Karen Sheng, Maggie Spitzer, Molly Young, Marcia Zimmerman

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS: Kunal Maiti

COPY STAFF: Peter Ji, Amanda Kaufmann, Karen Sheng

The News-Letter

The Gatehouse
(on the corner of N. Charles Street
and Art Museum Drive)

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter is published every Thursday during the academic year by the undergraduate students of The Johns Hopkins University with the exception of holidays, exam periods and vacations. The views expressed herein, including opinions and columns, do not necessarily represent those of the editorial board. All submissions become property of *The News-Letter* and will be included on *The News-Letter's* website, www.jhnewsletter.com.

Business hours are Mondays through Fridays, 1-5 p.m. The deadline for advertisements is 5 p.m. on the Monday before the Thursday of publication. The total circulation to the local campuses of Johns Hopkins (Homewood, Medical School and Hospital, Peabody), area colleges and the greater Baltimore region is 5,000.

©2016 *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter*. No material in this issue may be reproduced without the expressed written permission of the Editors-in-Chief.

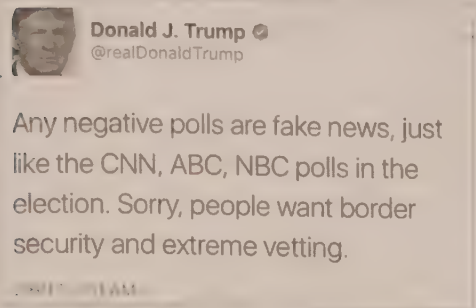
acp

Mailing Address:
3400 N. Charles St.
Mott Center, Suite 131
Baltimore, MD 21218
Phone: (410) 516-6000
Email: chiefs@jhnewsletter.com
Business Email: business@

OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

Trump’s tweeting habits should scare you



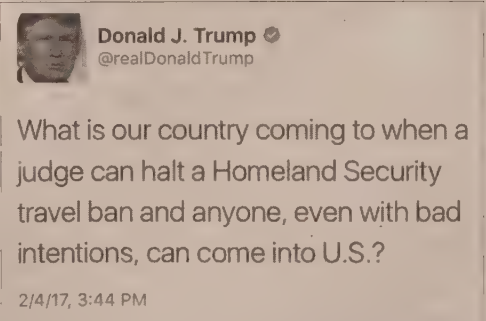
COURTESY OF TWITTER
 President Donald Trump asserts his dominance over the media.

By GILLIAN LELCHUK

“Any negative polls are fake news, just like the CNN, ABC, NBC polls in the election. Sorry, people want border security and extreme vetting.” Donald Trump tweeted that on the morning of Feb. 6. The president of the United States made a public statement that “negative polls are fake news.” And I mean, the President said it, so it must be true right? I hope you’re shouting “Wrong!” like you’re part of a Blue’s Clues episode. Obviously this can’t be true. Every single negative poll about you is untrue? Really, Donald? You watched millions of women and feminists march against you the day after your inauguration. You watch people protest you nearly every day. Just last weekend I participated in a protest against your Muslim ban, and I did not march alone. Please tell me again that “people want border security and extreme vetting.” This tweet is not an isolated incident. Donald Trump has outright lied to the American people on Twitter, in speeches, via Press Secretary Sean Spicer and alternative-facts-spewer Kellyanne Conway. On top of that, his rhetoric is intimidating, and I would go so far as to say it is dystopian. Let’s examine another one of Trump’s tweets. It’s not hard to find one that should downright terrify you, but we’ll focus on this beauty from Feb. 4: “What is our country coming to when a judge can halt a Homeland Security travel ban and anyone, even with bad intentions, can come into U.S.?” There are several things about this tweet that should scare you, not the least of which

is that Trump truly believes Islam and Muslim-majority countries are responsible for major terror attacks around the world. I want to focus on the phrasing of the sentence, specifically, “What

is our country coming to...” In saying this, Trump implies that something is wrong, something has changed and our entire nation is going to be punished for this mistake. Hopefully you are aware that the reason we even have a judicial branch is to prevent our executive and legislative branches from becoming too powerful. Part of a judge’s job is to declare executive orders unconstitutional when they are, in fact, unconstitutional. Trump’s rhetoric implies a deep misunderstanding of both the constitution as well as the history of the United States. But maybe he’s doing it on purpose. He frames his ideas in such a way as to capture the imaginations of those who voted for him in the first place. If they think this judge’s ruling was not only wrong but could also potentially motivate a worse America, Trump’s supporters will fall deeper under his spell. That should scare you no matter who you voted for, even if it was Trump. You should be afraid that our leader writes about his opinions in the most public forum we have developed, and you should be afraid that he works to discredit not only the media but also federal judges across the country. If I had more space, more time and more research, I would love to write about how Trump’s rhetoric, campaign and the first actions of his presidency rival moves made by one Adolf Hitler, but fear not! A quick Google search will give you plenty of accredited articles debating both sides of whether or not you can properly compare Trump to Hitler. Before I close out this op-ed, I will touch on the infamous campaign slogan that inspired millions of people to vote for four years of terrible, terrible hair: “Make America Great Again.” I found the slogan deeply problematic and a little bit brainwashy. First off, it implies that the America we have now isn’t great and that some unknown America of yesteryear was. I can get behind the argument that America isn’t great now. We still have a long, long way to go in terms of civil rights, LGBT+ rights and human rights in general. However, looking back on a history that saw slavery, Jim Crowe laws, the AIDS crisis and Japanese internment among others, I believe this is the best America we’ve ever had. Somehow Donald Trump convinced millions of Americans otherwise. He appealed to the everyman, to the person looking for the American Dream. Yeah America’s bad, but YOU can help make it great again! That should scare you. If you didn’t vote for Trump, I imagine you’re already scared, but in case you’re not, or in case you did vote for him, think about it. Think about how millions of Americans let a man with no political experience and little to no knowledge of the way our country works get inside their heads. That should scare you. Gillian Lelchuk is a junior Writing Seminars and mathematics double major from Los Alamitos, Calif. She is the Opinions Editor.



COURTESY OF TWITTER
 President Trump asserts his dominance over the judicial branch.

First-time protesters: Think and learn from the past

By EMELINE ARMITAGE

The Women’s March on Washington was fraught with problems from the very start. It was originally called the Million Women March, but black feminists pointed out that the Million Woman March had already occurred in Philadelphia in 1997. The organizers changed it to the Women’s March on Washington, which was then accused of co-opting the name of the historically important 1963 march. The original organizers were all white women who were luckily replaced by a more diverse group after much controversy. The March accepted the endorsement of pro-life groups, then dropped the endorsement; The March supported the sex workers’ rights movement, then dropped their support, then re-added their support and so on. Yet on Jan. 21, the March was a major success, with about 500,000 marchers in Washington D.C. and an estimated five million people worldwide. As a socialist, I did not like the March’s concentration on Hillary Clinton and the Democratic Party. As a white woman, I was concerned about perpetrating the white supremacist feminism that Clinton and the original organizers of the March embody. Afterwards, I was willing to ignore it and move on with my own political activism. However, I have since decided to embrace the March. No matter how ideologically pure I want to be, millions of people marching against the establishment (or the “Man” if you will) is a good thing. Mass protest is one of the few positives to emerge from the Trump administration. I hope the environment for mass radicalization of liberals is upon us. So as a 20 year old with no credentials besides being politically active for a few years, here are my recommendations for the Women’s Marchers and first time protesters. 1. Stop working with police. The Women’s March’s decision to work with police is probably my biggest grievance. The Movement for Black Lives (and other political movements) has been pointing out the problems with working with the police for

years. I present my hometown, Cleveland, as a case study: The Cleveland police engage in a pattern of unnecessary and excessive use of deadly force, less lethal force and excessive force against mentally disabled people. The heartbreaking murder of Tamir Rice at the hands of the Cleveland police is a tragic example. The Cleveland police union endorsed Donald Trump. By all accounts, the Cleveland police are a white supremacist, murderous force. By working with the Cleveland police, the Women’s March chose to ignore these injustices and ally themselves with white supremacy. So next time, don’t work with the cops. 2. Leave the patriotism at home. We get it, you love America. But maybe think about why some people might not. Singing the “Star-Spangled Banner” at a protest might seem like a good idea, until you remember that the “Star-Spangled Banner” was written by a slave-owner, and our national anthem references slavery. Similarly the whole “patriotism” thing should feel uncomfortable when you remember that the United States is a settler colonial state built upon still-existing indigenous nations. I read several accounts from native women of feeling disgusted upon seeing blatant displays of patriotism at anti-Trump protests. So at the very least, leave your patriotism at home. 3. Similarly, leave Hillary at home. Look, Hillary lost. She’s currently getting high in the woods somewhere with Bill or chumming it up with the Trumps at the inauguration. We all have different long-term goals. Liberals want another Democratic president, socialists want a socialist revolution (and harm reduction until the revolution happens, which is probably not anytime soon) and anarchists want us to all to smoke pot and run around naked or something. But we share short-term goals: to oppose the conservative agenda and Trump, to protect immigrants and refugees, stop the privatization of schools, stem the tide of climate change, etc. Invoking Clinton alienates many who can help you accomplish your short-term goals. If I can temporarily put aside my hammer-and-sickle, you can put aside being a “nasty woman” or being “With Her.” 4. Tap into what organizers are already doing. Moving forward, this is probably the most important point for newly involved protesters to realize. People have been opposing deportations, corruption, environmental harm, etc. for years before Trump assumed office. Working with people who have experience is extremely advantageous: They already have connections, infrastructure and an ideological framework. Don’t reinvent the wheel. As much as I would like to bask in socialist ideological purity, ignoring the mass anti-Trump protests would be a mistake. Radicals like myself must work with the newly political and the anti-Trump movement even if we have different long-term goals (especially on a campus like Hopkins where being ideologically pure will have me languishing, protesting by myself). If you are a new protester or just paying attention to politics, I welcome you and I hope you stick around. Hopefully if some of this advice is taken and people continue to come out into the streets, we can move forward to a more just and kind world. Emeline Armitage is a junior International Studies major from Cleveland.

Hollywood needs to be more open to female directors

By ALEX SILBERZWEIG

Think of a movie that revolves around the needs, desires and misadventures of at least one female character. No it cannot be a movie where a man spends an agonizing 120 minutes trying to get “the girl.” And no it cannot be a movie directed by a man. This is harder than it seems, right? A movie directed by a woman? Surely you are thinking that I made the criteria far too unreasonable. Though female-directed movies evidently exist, they are few and far between. We are currently experiencing a shocking and undeserved dearth of female-directed films. According to *Variety*, women constitute a mere seven percent of directors among IMDb’s Top 250 films. Adding 450 movies worsens matters. Women have directed only 13 percent of the top 700 films. A lot of these top movies were produced in the early to mid-20th century, when a woman’s right to vote was considered more than enough. Others might contend that a movie’s position in the IMDb Top 250 does not deem it “good.” Yes, I will admit that a number of the Top 250 could put an

insomniac to sleep without all of the side effects of sleeping pills. However, these are undoubtedly some of the most viewed movies. We quote them oftentimes without realizing it. Film students watch and emulate them. Fake film connoisseurs wax poetic about them. They permeate our culture and deeply influence the way we see the world. Though a few of these movies succeed at portraying women as more than mere objects, they are seldom directed by women. Take Mike Mills’ *20th Century Women* and Paul Feig’s all-female *Ghostbusters* reboot. Both films revolve around a group of female characters. Both, however, are directed by men. Female directorial takes would make these movies’ portrayal of women that much more robust and genuine. Women have extremely unique experiences that shape our womanhood and the way we see the world. Just think about it: Women are told far too often to carry around pepper spray, to buy nail polish that detects date-rape drugs in their drinks and to wear enough makeup to seem attractive, but not too much or else we’ll look like clowns. Look at *Clueless*, the 1995 teen classic that takes a lighthearted and fun approach to the throes of adolescence. Did I mention that it

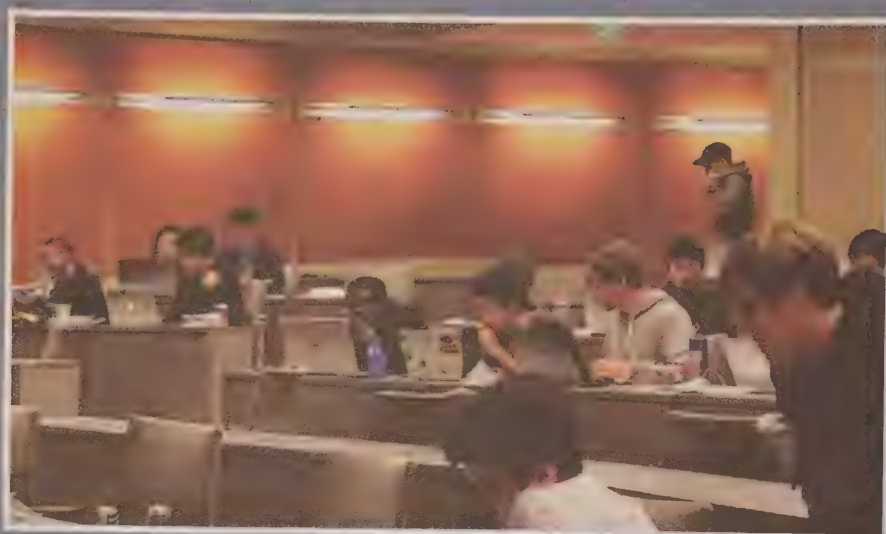
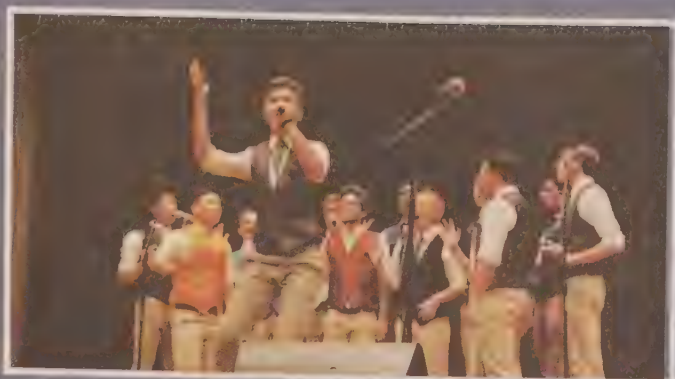
was directed by Amy Heckerling, a woman? Heckerling made us care for a ditzzy, spoiled teenage girl for 100 minutes. She created a world in which her mostly female characters could reveal their true colors, with young women who may be insecure about their feelings and their femininity. Heckerling knows women because she is one. This innate understanding made her female leads all the more compelling. Production companies should learn from this. Why does this even matter? Simply put, women understand women better than men do. I am not saying that men are incapable of directing films that probe the inner workings of a woman’s mind. However, female-directed films that focus on women’s trials and tribulations differentiate mere sympathy from empathy. Will we see that seven percent go up any time soon? It is with great displeasure for me to note that this number will probably stay the same or decrease. According to *The Wrap*, 20th Century Fox

and Paramount, two of Hollywood’s most renowned studios, will not be releasing any female-directed movies in the next two years. They are responsible for maintaining household name franchises that star some of the most renowned actors and experience the greatest box office successes. In other words, many of the superhero, animated and action films that will permeate the mainstream at lightning pace will be directed by men. Whoever reads this should not feel hopeless about the state of female representation by female directors. To remedy this shortage of upcoming female-directed films, we must collectively seek to watch the ones that exist. Let us make female directors the norm, not rarities. Alex Silberzweig is a freshman Economics major from New York.



BAGOGAMES/CC BY 2.0
 The all-female *Ghostbusters* film was still directed by a man.

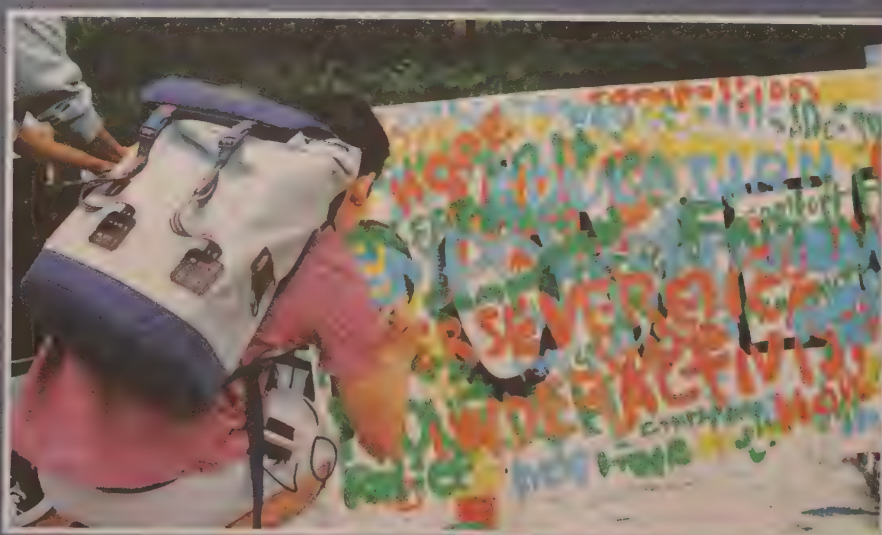
PHOTO ESSAY



Hopkins in ACTION



The News-Letter Photography Team



THE B SECTION

N-L

YOUR WEEKEND • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • CARTOONS, ETC. • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • SPORTS

FEBRUARY 9, 2017



Arts & Entertainment

Horror movie *Rings* falls short of its predecessors — B4
Lady Gaga shines at the Super Bowl half-time show — B4
Tips on how to snag a paid arts internship this summer — B5



Science & Technology

Hubble Constant confirms universe is expanding quickly — B7
Hopkins students receive annual research awards — B7
Scientists discover why LSD lasts so long in body — B9



Sports

Will the New York Knicks trade Carmelo Anthony? — B10
Sportpinion: Patriots defy expectations — B10
M. basketball loses to Dickinson after seven-win streak — B12

YOUR WEEKEND FEBRUARY 9-12

Events in Baltimore Goodbye B. Doughnut, hello disappointment this weekend

Thursday

Tom Grace presents Kent State: Death and Dissent in the Long Sixties, Red Emma's Bookstore Coffeehouse, 7:30 p.m.

Tom Grace, one of the 13 students struck by National Guard fire at the Kent State shootings, examines what led up to one of the defining events of the Vietnam era and examines media myths surrounding it. Free.

Friday

\$100 Girlfriend, Vayda and Maitland, Reverb Collective, 9 p.m.

Enjoy the Baltimore gloom pop of \$100 Girlfriend, the dream pop of Vayda and the Philly indie rock of Maitland, along with reasonably priced drinks and arcade games. \$10.

Drunk in Love Bey vs Ye vs Jay Valentine's Dance Party, Ottobar, 9 p.m.

Enjoy the Valentine's edition of this monthly dance party and gyrate upstairs at the Ottobar to the sweet, sweet sounds of Beyonce, Jay-Z and Kanye spun by DJ Mills. Drink specials all night. 21+. No listed cover.

Saturday

Creativity Exchange, the BMA, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Take the opportunity to participate in discussions with Baltimore-based artists and entrepreneurs. There will be a panel discussion followed by a reception and vendor fair. A workshop will be offered as well, although it is now full. Free.

The Opening of the Museum of Trayvon Martin: A Meeting before Labor, Terrault, 7 p.m.

This exhibition explores ways of perceiving and handling violence inflicted on black bodies and projected on black lives, and it calls for people to recognize the importance of the narrative and lasting legacy of Trayvon Martin. Attendance of this event requires very specific instructions that Terrault provides on the event's Facebook page. Free.

Sunday

Book Club Discussion 1: Swing Time, The Crown, 6 p.m.

Are you an engineering major who dreams of discussing books? Are you an English major who just can't read enough? Do you simply like to drink beer and listen to people talk about books? Come to book club at The Crown this Sunday to discuss Zadie Smith's *Swing Time*.

By SIMON BOHN
For The News-Letter

Last year, I wrote about a wonderful artisan donut shop in Hampden named B. Doughnut. Just a few short months later, B. Doughnut is no more. According to a statement on their Facebook page, it was the commute that exhausted them.

The husband and wife team that owned B. Doughnut hailed from Virginia. They will continue to operate a location in Leesburg, Va., but the daily journey to Baltimore was too much.

As a lover of quality pastries, I was heartbroken to hear of B. Doughnut's closure. Luckily for myself and other pastry fiends in the area, there's a new kid on the block.

Opening in the exact same location as B. Doughnut, I hoped that Center Cut Doughnuts could fill the void in my heart and stomach that B. Doughnut's untimely demise left.

To recap, B. Doughnut's confections were perfectly balanced between rich and light, with a perfect hint of yeasty flavor. The doughnut, their interpretation of the legendary cronut, a portmanteau of "croissant" and "doughnut," was to die for, with flaky, tender pastry enrobed in a crispy sweet doughnut skin.

Perhaps it should have been the first warning sign that Center Cut

Doughnuts does not have doughnuts on their menu. But I missed that sign and pressed onwards, hoping that it was an artistic choice.

Center Cut operates on the same artificial scarcity principle as B. Doughnut. They are only open in the morning and close when they run out, usually before noon. But you can never be sure; That's all part of the allure.

I thought I could outsmart the artificial scarcity and called to inquire how many doughnuts were left one morning around at 11 a.m. The man who answered seemed somewhat confused by my question, but he said they had "about four dozen left but really no idea when they would sell out."

With that kind of uncertainty, I rushed out the door, worried I might arrive a few minutes too late and completely miss out.

Center Cut's decor is plain. Where B. Doughnut had a brightly decorated interior and professional menu, Center Cut's interior is much more sparse and utilitarian. However, functionality of the space has not changed at all. There is no seating inside, and they sell nothing but doughnuts.

Unfortunately for Center Cut, the doughnuts do not live up to the hype. I purchased two pastries: a strawberry-glazed doughnut and



COURTESY OF VERONICA REARDON

Center Cut is near Hampden's main street on Chestnut Avenue.

an almond marzipan. These purchases were made not by choice but by virtue of them being the only available flavors when I arrived at 11:30.

Neither doughnut was particularly good. The strawberry glaze did not taste particularly like strawberry, and the glaze did little to improve the heavy pastry, which seemed a bit undercooked. The outside was not crispy, and the inside was not light.

As for the almond, it suffered the same issues. Although I loved the flavor, there was only a light scattering of almonds on the top of the doughnut, and they were not enough to make for an interesting texture.

While these dough-

nuts were not bad, they were certainly not worth \$2.50 apiece and do not hold up the high bar that B. Doughnut set.

That said, I did not have the opportunity to try their signature pastries, the browned butter frosted doughnut or the Challanut (a challah-plus-doughnut fritter). These both sound better than the flavors I ended up trying, so if I'm in the area I'll probably give them another chance.

B. Doughnut served grade A doughnuts, but from here on in I'll have to lower my expectations for Center Cut to a middling C. Better than Dunkin' Donuts but nowhere near the level of other artisan doughnut shops.

Spro is charming but not ideal for studying

By VERONICA REARDON
Your Weekend Editor

As with any truly hipster neighborhood, Hampden has plenty of coffee shops. The three that come immediately to mind are Artifact, Common Ground and Spro. All of these are locally owned businesses that locally roast their coffee beans in some capacity.

Artifact Coffee is owned by Spike Gjerde, owner of many Baltimore restaurants including the nearby Bird in Hand coffee shop.

Common Ground has been in Hampden for 14 years and is a laid-back favorite on the Avenue. Spro Coffee is owned by Jay Caragay, who grew up in Pikesville, Md.

Spro was the first coffee shop that I visited in Hampden. It was one of the first places I'd ever been with noticeably good coffee. I used to put cream and sugar in coffee, but at Spro I was happy to drink it black.

Now I drink black coffee all the time, but that has more to do with my growing caffeine dependence than anything else.

Before opening in Hampden, Caragay operated a coffee shop in the Baltimore County Public Library in Towson. Spro came to Hampden in 2010, and in 2011, Caragay started a small roastery in East Baltimore to experiment with coffee roasting and flavor. A former Spro employee now owns the Towson location.



COURTESY OF VERONICA REARDON

Spro Coffee offers carefully made coffees roasted near and far along with a calm, relaxing atmosphere.

Caragay claims that Spro is one of a kind in the variety of roasts and beans that it features. Apparently, many shops contract with only a small number of roasters or even with just one. He also claims that the variety of brewing methods that Spro uses is unique.

In fact, Spro offers seven different methods for brewing coffee, including French press, pour-over and a cold brew drip tower, which looks just as magnificent and odd as it sounds.

While Caragay's claims could be exaggerated, Spro certainly stands out from other shops. While they can seem annoyingly snobby, especially for reasons I will address later, they care about the coffee they make. The manner in which they view coffee as a craft adds to any experience that you have there and truly shows in

the flavor of their coffee.

The inside of Spro is well lit with pale walls and has a clean, minimal feeling. It offers a variety of seating: some in the front near the large front window, a couple of small tables in a room further back in the coffee shop and some outdoor seating in both the front and the back.

I find the outdoor seating in the back particularly charming, although I was lucky enough to visit when no one was smoking. Fortunately for some but unfortunately for those of us who are rather attached to our lungs, smoking is permitted in the back outdoors area.

I take issue with one part of Spro: They don't offer Wi-Fi. They seem to be making a statement that I understand and support on one hand: They are trying to create a more social space, a stronger experience.

Despite my understanding of this, it is a reality that as a Hopkins student, it's difficult to justify visiting a coffee shop without doing any work. I like going out of the house to study, and it can be a little annoying to have to plan out work that doesn't require the Internet.

It's also a little irritatingly moralizing of them to deny Wi-Fi to patrons for this purpose, if that is indeed why they do it. Then again, the lack of Wi-Fi can make focusing on reading quite easy.

Spro's prices are fairly typical for a coffee shop, although certain types of coffee are more expensive than others.

Spro is very close by; It's on the main avenue of Hampden. While Spro has its quirks, it is certainly worth trying, especially if you want to seek out unique, well-crafted coffees.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Wishing for Spring Break Playlist

1. "Heartthrob" by Father
2. "Hands" by Father
3. "Gimme The Loot" by The Notorious B.I.G.
4. "Green Ranger" by Mr. Muthaf**kin' eXquire
5. "Goosebumps" by Travis Scott
6. "P. Sherman" by Divine Council
7. "blkswn" by Smino
8. "S On Ya Chest" by Injury Reserve
9. "No Problems" by Chance the Rapper
10. "Waves" by Joey Bada\$\$

Big Sean improves with new album *I Decided*



DANTE MARSHALL/CC-BY-2.0

Sultry rapper Big Sean returns with his newest album, *I Decided*, which was released last Friday worldwide.

By NIKITA SHTARKMAN
For The News-Letter

I have never been a fan of Big Sean. While Lil Wayne would occasionally rap a couple lines or verses where the punchlines were corny or stale, those kinds of lines are a staple of Big Sean's rhyme book. He has stumbled with lines like "I make like the universe and plan it (planet) out," and "I'll be there for you, I'm all ears, in other words, I'm here (hear) for you." Whenever I see a Big Sean feature on a song, I expect an okay but forgettable verse.

Over time though, it seems that Big Sean has been growing and developing as an artist. Songs like "Control" and "For Free" both showcase some of Sean's ability to write phenomenal verses and catchy, fun flows. Big Sean has grown into his identity as a goofy and fun, but also introspective and thoughtful rapper.

Big Sean's upswing accelerated even further in the run up to this project. "Bounce Back," the first single from *I Decided*, has since become a worldwide hit, and

with good reason. With a great hook, a phenomenal beat, and a couple of good verses, Big Sean crafted another one of his rare gems.

"Moves," the second single, is one of my favorite songs of the year. The lyrics are fun and flow well, the beat hits hard, and the bassline that has a heart of its own. The crazy video with Sean dancing on a white background is required viewing. It doubled my enjoyment of the song instantly.

While listening to those two songs on repeat for a couple of weeks, my excitement grew and grew. I'm happy to say that Big Sean crafted his best album. *I Decided* is a cohesive and pleasing project.

I think that Sean's greatest accomplishment on this album is the definition of a cohesive theme. From the choice of CMYK colors, which flood the cover, the music videos and all of his performances to the eerie, tinkling sound of all of his records, Sean seems to have meticulously crafted a vibe for this album.

Each song on *I Decided*

flows logically from the last one without making the whole album sound like one long improvisational session (e.g. the Travis Scott, *Birds in the Trap* effect).

The songs on this project are introspective contemplations of Big Sean's life. Is the lyricism great? No. But Sean manages to create lines that are at once clever, reflective and funny. Also, Sean seems to have pored through his songs to make sure that none of his trademark super-corny punchlines remain.

Even so, he still lets a few slip through the bristles of his fine toothed comb. "You bought the watch but can't afford the time," and "Big face like Zoron," are examples of such gems, but because there are so few of them, these lines come off endearing rather than annoying.

My favorite part on this album is a short, specific moment. It happens in-between "Voices in my Head/Stick to the Plan." As Sean's verse from "Voices in my Head" becomes a half-hearted mumble, the rattling beat slows. Sean murmurs along with the slowing beat, then goes silent. The beat falters, like a music box running out of energy, then resurges.

Metro Boomin drops his tag here — another great placement of "If Metro don't trust you"

— and suddenly "Stick to the Plan" booms through the speakers. This is my favorite recent beat switch. Ever since the oversaturation of beat switches around the classic and influential "0 to 100" by Drake, including a beat switch is a risk. Sean succeeds on this project.

Along with the best part, I feel that I must mention the worst part of the album, which is undeniably Eminem's verse. Now, for complete authorial honesty, I feel obligated to say that I have never been a huge Eminem fan.

I understand his influence and his skill, but I never found his music pleasing to listen to. Nonetheless, I think that his verse on this project is more than just something I subjectively dislike: They are an objectively terrible piece of work. The lyrics are vile and disgusting for no purpose other than to shock.

They don't even flow together. Eminem seems to say things just because he knows that they will create assonance, even though the actual idea is meaningless. His fascination with rape and murder, something that shocked back in the 2000s, now feels forced and uncomfortable.

Even the very recording and mastering of his voice is bad. He sounds like he's rapping from behind the locked door of a freezer at Walmart into a bass boosted microphone. Overall, it seems like Sean plastered the verse onto "No Favors," just for the name value.

Besides that, *I Decided* runs fairly consistently. There are times when it is easy to tune out; Big Sean doesn't do much to alter his flow or his delivery, but he always brings the listener back with a truly clever punchline or an interesting thought.

I recommend that people check out the singles, and if they enjoy them, listen to the whole project straight through. It creates a very immersive atmosphere and is worth checking out.

Sampha finds peace on newest release *Process*

By JACOB TOOK
Staff Writer

Following a year of solid R&B releases that brought the standard of the genre ever higher, London-based artist Sampha faced the challenge of creating something powerful and unique, a project worthy of Rihanna's *Anti* or Solange's *A Seat at the Table* that broke away to earn its own distinct acclaim. And he did just that with

his debut studio album *Process*.

Sampha has released two extended plays, *Sundaniza* in 2010 and *Dual* in 2013, and has collaborated as a singer and songwriter with some of the biggest names in music. In 2016 alone, Sampha lent his voice to Solange's "Don't Touch My Hair," Frank Ocean's "Alabama," and Kanye West's "Saint Pablo."

Written after his mother passed away from cancer

in 2015, *Process* carries the weight of the loss and Sampha's grief, reflecting a change in tone from *Dual*, which was stylistically similar but less emotionally charged. The album balances instrumental and synthetic melodies, but Sampha's beautifully gritty vocals give the album a cohesive identity that is at once fraught with pain and compelled by an exploration and quest for understanding.

"Plastic 100°C," the album's intro, is an ethereal track that is carried by a light, stringed melody but grounded by layers of production that underscore a sinister tone. Sampha's lyrics offer a frightened plea for help as he finds himself desperate to understand his anguish.

From the beginning, he sets into motion a narrative that is revisited throughout *Process*, a title which refers not only to the artistic process of creation, but also to the more personal effort to come to understand the loss of his mother and his changing artistic identity.

Each of the ten tracks on *Process* offers something different for listeners, making them each a valuable and unforgettable addition to the sequence. One of the standouts is "Kora Sings," which is buoyed by scattered, interwoven percussive rhythms, field recordings and electronic harmonies.

Sampha dwells on the importance of his mother as well as his own mortality in this track

SEE SAMPHA, PAGE B5



SAKENA/CC-BY-2.0

Up-and-coming singer Sampha has released his album, *Process*, in the wake of his mother's death.

Parquet Courts bring their own brand of rock

By DUBRAY KINNEY
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Parquet Courts performed at the 2640 Space last Wednesday along with Philadelphia-based Ghostly International harpist Mary Lattimore. The show was one of the early performances on their short 2017 tour slate that also includes a show at the 9:30 Club in Washington, D.C.

Parquet Courts is a band that is comprised of a quartet: Andrew Savage on the guitar as well as vocals, Austin Brown on the guitar as well as vocals, Sean Yeaton on the bass and Max Savage on the drums. The band broke out with their second studio album, *Light Up Gold*, which featured one of their most beloved tracks: the headbang friendly tune, "Borrowed Time."

From there the band signed to the record label What's Your Rupture? (which features other prominent garage/punk bands such as Iceage and Royal Headache). Three albums followed (*Sunbathing Animal*; *Content Nausea*, which was released under the name of Parkay Quarts since it only featured Andrew Savage and Austin Brown; and their 2016 album *Human Performance*) and an EP (*Monastic Living*).

The band became known for their sometimes aggressive, sometimes contemplative guitar riffs and singing. The band wears their influences on their sleeves and they even released a mixtape featuring some of these influences called *By Who Power?* The mixtape featured prominent rockers as well as other

SEE PARQUET, PAGE B5

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Album releases to look out for this spring

By WILL SCERBO
For The News-Letter

Another semester has started and another (corporate) year for music has begun. In an appropriately Sisyphean fashion, I have been experiencing my yearly hankering to write a short list of the five releases I just can't wait to download.

The following albums are, in my humble opinion, guaranteed to be jam-packed with tracks that I'll blast anywhere and everywhere from B-Level to B. Doughnut. In truth, I don't have the patience or money for B. Doughnut on a regular basis, especially now that the closest one is in Virginia, may its Hampden location rest in peace.

Anyway, enough about my high cholesterol and more about the music:

1. King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard — *Flying Microtonal Banana* (releases Feb. 24)

When your weird suitemate in Building A just won't stop shredding their Squier guitar through a practice amp at 2 a.m., so you decide to throw an intervention. However, your kind of intervention is a bit unique. You insert a few extra frets on his sick guitar according to famed microtonal composer Harry Partch's tuning specifications, confusing the hell out of the young Yngwie Malmsteen.

Much to your surprise, your actions only bolster the creativity of your formerly pentatonic-minded peer. They start listening to the Master Musicians of Jajouka and study abroad in Australia for their whole sophomore year, forming a seven-piece psych orchestra and returning with an album of ridiculous tunes.

The new King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard album is something like this scenario, but probably a lot cooler. Check the video for the single "Rattlesnake" if you need further convincing. The band has released an album annually since 2012 and their last album, *Nonagon Infinity*, won Best Hard Rock/Heavy Metal Album at Australia's ARIA Music Awards in 2016.

2. Jib Kidder — *Pay 2 Play* (releases Feb. 23)

Sean Schuster-Craig, aka Jib Kidder, made his name in the late '00s making well-crafted absurdist mashups such as the still-bangin' "Windowdipper" from his *All Y'All* LP. Nowadays Jib makes warped psychedelic pop music, occupying a unique field of sonic space somewhere between Neil Cicierega and Syd Barrett.

His 2015 album *A Teaspoon to The Ocean* was a favorite of mine back in the day, so if you too are a fan of breezy, shoegaze-y guitar jams with heavily processed vocals and a general vibe of "pop music to listen to while colonizing Mars," check out Jib Kidder's new song "R U Calm Under Pressure."

The video depicts several people dancing in Trump/Clinton masks (probably leaked footage from the Elmo's labor day party last year), and



KATHRYN PARSON/CC-BY-ND-2.0
Sam T. Herring is the frontman of Baltimore-based and 4AD-signed indie rock band Future Islands.

the song samples a recitation from the Church Universal and Triumphant, a cryptic Christian doomsday cult who seem like pretty nice people.

3. Future Islands — *The Far Field* (releases April 7)

Hometown heroes Future Islands return for a new album on 4AD. The new single "Ran" features their trademark sound: a driving post-punk rhythm section accompanying by pillow synth texture and Samuel T. Herring's dramatic vocal performance.

I spent a weekend this summer at the local Fields Festival at a campground in northern Baltimore county, where I was simultaneously subjected to a lot of amazing music and a lot of amazing nude old men walking around the campgrounds in a stupor.

I got to see Future Islands as the sun was setting on Saturday evening, and they played the entirety of this upcoming album titled "The Far Field" instead of going for the normal move (which I assume would be to play "Seasons" 10 times and walk off stage in a huff).

Simply stated, the rest of the new material sounds fantastic, and if you're as much of a sucker for new wave revival as I am, there's a Debbie Harry feature on the album so keep your ears ready in the meantime.

4. Thundercat — *Drunk* (releases Feb. 24)

On Jan. 20, Thundercat tweeted "In this club farting so much." A poignant statement. Now, I don't get out much but most of my experience at these so-called clubs usually end up sort of like that. Luckily I have my iPod classic with me because, you know, I'm sick like that.

I wander outside and have a smoke and switch on the new Thundercat single "Show You the Way." Stephen Bruner's sparkling bass tones start to tickle my gaseous innards, and I feel pretty nice.

Did I mention Kenny Loggins and Michael McDonald are on this track? That's akin to having the two best smooth jazz dads of all time. As usual, Flying Lotus and Kamasi Washington are on Thundercat's sprawling upcoming album *Drunk*, and I'm sure I'll attempt to emulate the title when the album is out soon.

5. Dirty Projectors (releases Feb. 24)

To all the distressed lovers in the Hopkins community: This album is (maybe) for you. Dave Longstreth, the principal songwriter and vocalist for long-running indie act Dirty Projectors, was so dejected from his breakup with longtime bandmate Amber Coffman that lo and behold, he's written an entire album of breakup songs.

However, these are not your ordinary breakup songs. Of the four singles released so far, Longstreth displays a more electronic style with contributions from experimental composer Tyondai Braxton, percussionist Mauro Refosco, and (no introduction needed) Solange Knowles.

Dave's voice hovers longingly above amongst skittering beats and room-filling horn arrangements on "Cool your Heart" with Dawn Richard, while his voice is bent out of shape beyond recognition on the slow-burning "Keep your Name."

Despite a definite sonic shift from the rock paradigm to the electronic/R&B realm, at its heart, the new album seems to be a return to solo compositional form as well as a pop breakthrough for Dave. Consider me excited.

This album comes off the heels of Dirty Projectors' last album, 2012's *Swing Lo Magellan* (with the five year stretch between *Magellan* and *Dirty Projectors* being the longest between releases for Dirty Projectors). *Magellan* was very well-received and ended the year on multiple "Best Of" lists.

The original film (and to a lesser degree its original sequel) set standards for jump-scares as well an overall general ominous atmosphere in horror films. *Rings* misses that mark by quite a bit.

she descended into the audience briefly to reach a solitary grand piano elevated just above the swell of fans.

It was at this lonely piano that Gaga graced us with "Million Reasons," during which she allowed her vocals to shine as they reverberated around the stadium, buoyed by the energy of the crowd.

She also gave a mid-song shout out to her parents and I was struck by how mature she now comes across, despite the glitz and glamour of her gorgeous outfit and makeup. She used this halftime show to show the world how much she's grown up since *The Fame* era.

I was surprised that we didn't see more of Joanne, and was particularly disappointed by the absence

of the album's lead single "Perfect Illusion." With this year's Super Bowl situated in Houston, I thought I could hope for a larger helping of Gaga's new country flavor.

Gaga capped her performance off with "Bad Romance," one of her most energetic singles to date and certainly a fitting conclusion to a stunning performance. She tied together all of the elements that made the show particularly memorable in this one song, combining astounding effects, precise dance moves and her signature strong vocals to leave the audience feeling exhilarated.

Gaga once again proved that if she's just given a microphone and a stage, she can command the attention of the entire world.

World renowned pop star Lady Gaga was the headlining artist of Super Bowl LI's halftime show.

Rings is horror at its most boring, brooding

By DUBRAY KINNEY
Arts & Entertainment Editor

2016 featured lots of great horror films that were mainly independent, but the wide release fare also made a great showing. Sequels like *The Conjuring 2* and *Ouija 2: Origin of Evil* (and what a shocker when that film turned out to be good) helped buff a somewhat average wide-release horror showing.

2017 hasn't started off with similar success and *Rings* serves as an unfortunate opening to 2017's horror lineup.

Rings is the latest in the American version of the Japanese, *Ringu* (or *Ring*) franchise, known best for the initial adaptation, 2002's *The Ring* (helmed by superstar director Gore Verbinski.) *The Ring* served to set the blueprint for further American adaptations of Japanese horror films while also skyrocketing Western interest in the original films.

The plot of the franchise centers around a videotape which has a seemingly unrelated series of bleak images that causes anyone who watches it to die within six days thanks to the ghost haunting the video, Samara.

SEE RINGS, PAGE B5

Lady Gaga stuns at Super Bowl halftime show

By JACOB TOOK
Staff Writer

Did I watch Super Bowl LI on Sunday? No. But did I watch Lady Gaga's incredible halftime performance? You bet your biscuits I did.

Now, the only football game I've ever seen in its entirety was my high school senior year homecoming game, and if there was one thought running through my mind while I was bored, cold and probably hungry, it was where is Lady Gaga? Honestly, no game is truly complete without her.

And she exceeded expectations with what was easily the best half time performance since The Queen Herself (Beyoncé) took the stage in 2013. The iconic visuals (everyone is marveling over the drones and for good reason), the engaging sequence of some of Gaga's greatest hits and the energy she carried through her movements and her voice shook the entire stadium.

The opening shot of Gaga standing proudly against an American flag that literally formed in the sky behind her was jaw-dropping. After jumping towards the field and descending to the stage, she kicked off the musical medley singing "Poker Face" from atop an elevated platform.

Her dancers then flooded out to join her as she transitioned into "Born This Way," which was politically controversial if you consider the idea that everyone should



PHILLIP NELSON/CC-BY-SA-2.0
World renowned pop star Lady Gaga was the headlining artist of Super Bowl LI's halftime show.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

2640 Space hosts NYC's Parquet Courts

PARQUET, FROM B4

Musicians such as Brian Eno, Neil Young and GG Allin. Certain artists like Pavement and Beat Happening can be seen more readily in the songs the band crafts.

Before speaking about the show itself, I should describe the 2640 Space. The Space is one of the better venues in Baltimore and it caters to a large crowd, whether it be something like Parquet Courts or a craft fair. This can even be seen in tomorrow's Negus in Paris show that Abdu Ali and Logicoma, amongst other performers, are putting on is taking place at the 2640 Space.

The only downside to the space is that the acoustics didn't really quite suit Parquet Courts especially if you were towards the back of the audience (as I was). Every now and then it felt like the guitarwork would drown out the rest of the band, and Sean Yeaton's voice was completely garbled for the majority of his on-stage back-and-forth with the audience and his other bandmates.

The audience was diverse in age but uniform in whom you would expect to be at a post-punk revival band's performance.

The band's performance was strong, and they performed a wide-range of songs with the crowd freaking out collectively as they played "Borrowed Time." The audience for the most part swayed back and forth to the music but those at the front seemed much more aggressive, especially with the songs that were more heavy with the guitar work.

The thing that shocked me the most as I watched the band play was the range of songs they played (tracks from *Light Up Gold* to songs from their newest album, *Human Performance*), the maniac energy the band had even though they all came off as calm, cool and collected before they played and just how at home they were with back and forth bickering between them and the audience.

The highlight of the night was the band's performance of "Captive of the Sun" which was front-ended by a small speech on Donald Trump by vocalist/guitarist Austin Brown.

For anyone that still wants to see the band but wasn't able to catch their set at the 2640 Space, they are playing at the 9:30 Club in Washington, D.C. next Monday.

Process is a journey through loss and grief



DAVID SHANKBONE/CC-BY-2.0

Sampha worked with rapper Kanye West on a song for West's album.

SAMPHA FROM B3

that at once perfectly contains the grander thematic considerations of the album and has a musical identity that is entirely its own.

"Kora Sings" also marks the conclusion of the project's opening trilogy, initiated by "Plastic 100°C" and sustained by *Process*' lead single "Blood On Me," which delve into the depths of the artist's heartache and fear. These culminate in the cathartic "(No One Knows Me) Like the Piano," which feels like a deep breath letting go of the tension built up in the previous three tracks.

"(No One Knows Me) Like the Piano" is the

album's third single and by far its most musically reductive, allowing Sampha to showcase the full power of his expressive voice accompanied primarily by a piano.

It is a slow ballad, an homage to his musical roots, before his rise to fame and before the loss of his mother, as he sings about the piano he would play in his mother's home. Though the subsequent tracks do re-engage with some of the early heaviness, it is less chaotic and gains precision as the artist gains understanding and control of his pain and grief.

Another top hitter from the album is "Under," which hearkens back to the frightened

confusion of "Plastic 100°C," with dissonant layers of synth production but shows more self-awareness from the artist. The track is distinct because of the heavy synth and the visually compelling lyrics that contain the full evocative power of the album.

It almost feels like an answer to some of the questions posed in the opener, allowing the remaining three tracks to move forward with a progressive narrative.

Process, despite its successful effort to create one engaging narrative, also ends on a question mark with "What Shouldn't I Be?" This track echoes a universal question that suitably caps Sampha's journey to process his pain and find understanding.

While it is not quite as solid an outro as this album deserves, it stands as a gorgeously tender effort in healing. It leaves the listener not with the tense, sometimes panicked anguish established in the intro but with a soulful tranquility that feels genuine

and well-earned.

If you're looking for easy listening with catchy choruses and banging melodies, be warned: You won't find those on Sampha's *Process*. Instead, you will find an honest, emotional and very private narrative about dealing with loss and grief and coming to terms with one's identity.

However, *Process* is gorgeous, superbly building on the R&B genre with its own nuanced themes and musical production to earn a place among the top albums of the year.

Sampha announced a tour of the United States in conjunction with the release of *Process*. Unfortunately for those wanting to see him locally, he performed at the D.C. venue, The 9:30 Club, last night. Fans that are still interested in seeing the artist will have to wait a few months before his follow-up performance on May 6 at the Merriweather Post Pavillion. At the Merriweather show he will open for the British band The xx.

Rings fails to live up to its decorated past

RINGS FROM B4

mythology that retcons the second film of the series. The mythology is somewhat interesting and explains much of the *American film series* backstory but the thing is that without an interesting wrapper around it, I have no reason to care.

The protagonists (Holt and Julia) are also really unlikeable and even unbelievable. The whole pull of the plot is that Holt doesn't text Julia back after a few days of her talking with him and because of that she decides to drive hours to see him at his school in order to investigate whether he's alright.

It's insane that the least believable part about this ghost story is how much Julia loves Holt. He literally doesn't text her back for a few days and she decides to launch a full-scale investigation to ensure that he's safe.

The plotline has its own problems but there's even more in the dialogue itself. The characters feel like robots talking to each other which honestly fits in with the robotic feelings of the actors.

No offense to Johnny Galecki, but he looks like an Oscar winner next to the rest of the supporting cast in this film. Matilda Lutz would be outclassed by anyone who could read a script. Anybody out there who wants to be an actor or actress should take great solace in her ability to find work, since she shows that miracles really can come true when you're trying to make it in the film industry. I can only hope that she improves in the next films she appears in.

Prior to seeing the film, someone told me that the scariest scenes included a dog's barking and the opening of an umbrella (this opening itself not being the prod-

uct of anything horrifying, just a normal jump cut to the sudden opening of an umbrella). I was floored when this turned out to be true. The films' scariest moments are a result of just regular jump-cuts and the scenes that it intended to be scary are just left flat.

Another thing that really hurt this film is that the makeup of the film initially is really interesting to me. The idea of college students experimenting with the other side has been done before but taking an established franchise and working it through that angle is a really interesting idea to me.

Rings was pushed back in its release several times before it finally released last week. It was initially scheduled to be released in November of 2015 before being switched to October 2016 and then finally hitting screens this February.

This leads me to question whether it was reshoots that led to the film's constantly changing release date. The opening 20 minutes of the film has a vibe that is entirely different to the rest of its runtime.

An early scene of the film even seems to set up a future scare in which Julia walks down a hallway with a video camera filming the entire hallway and a television set underneath the camera showing the recording. This definitely feels like something that was meant to have a bigger role in the film, yet it's never touched on again.

In the days before I saw the film, I was tipped off on the original short film, *Rings*, released in 2005 in the lead-up to *The Ring Two*. This short is honestly one of the better *Ring* related releases in the entire franchise, Japanese or American. It's just a real shame that the feature-length adaptation couldn't really get

Resources for snagging the ever-elusive (paid) arts internship

By Mia Capobianco

1. Research

Okay, so technically most research opportunities available to undergraduates are not internships. In fact, given the freedom and exploration of personal interests that independent research allows, it is often preferable to a standard internship, depending on the amount of structure you require. Hopkins offers several grants for students interested in conducting research over the summer. Applications typically require the support of a faculty member, who will oversee the project, as well as relatively detailed grant proposals. A comprehensive list research grants available to undergraduates can be found at advising.jhu.edu/research_funding. Note that many deadlines for these grants are approaching quickly.

2. Professional organizations

A bunch of fields within the Humanities have various professional organizations, and they often list job opportunities, including internships. For those interested in museums and/or the history of art, The Association of Art Museum Curators (artcurators.org) has a helpful list of internships and fellowships. It's extensive, it's alphabetical and it highlights deadlines, so you don't have to search for them. The American Anthropological Association has a database they have deemed the "AnthroGuide." It's searchable and includes internships. To access the database, head to americananthro.org and select AnthroGuide from the "Learn & Teach" tab. Similar resources exist for professionals in other areas, and can usually be found via Google search or a conversation with a professor.

3. On-campus help

Speaking of conversations with professors, that's usually the smartest place to start. Sending an email to your academic advisor or a professor whose research interests you is low effort and often high reward. The Office of Academic Advising, the National Fellowships Program (located in the depths of Shriver) and the Career Center are also worth checking out. The Career Center, usually foreign to underclassmen (or upperclassmen, for that matter) can help you efficiently prep for interviews and strengthen your resume. Each department within the school of Arts & Sciences also has a corkboard where they list internships, fellowships and career and educational opportunities, among other things.

4. Last resort

If you're late to the game or have no luck with the above strategies, hit up your personal network (LinkedIn sometimes comes in clutch), because you likely know someone who knows someone within your field. Further, there are plenty of blogs, especially for writers, that provide career guidance. If all else fails, there's always your parents' place and a job in food service, right?

CARTOONS, ETC.

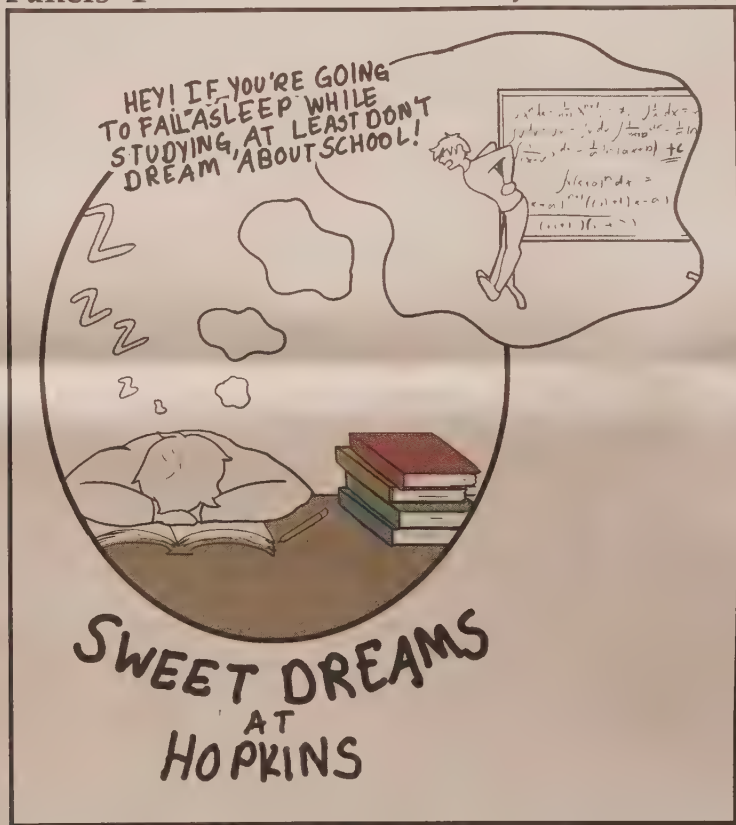
Grave Humor

By Stephanie Herrera



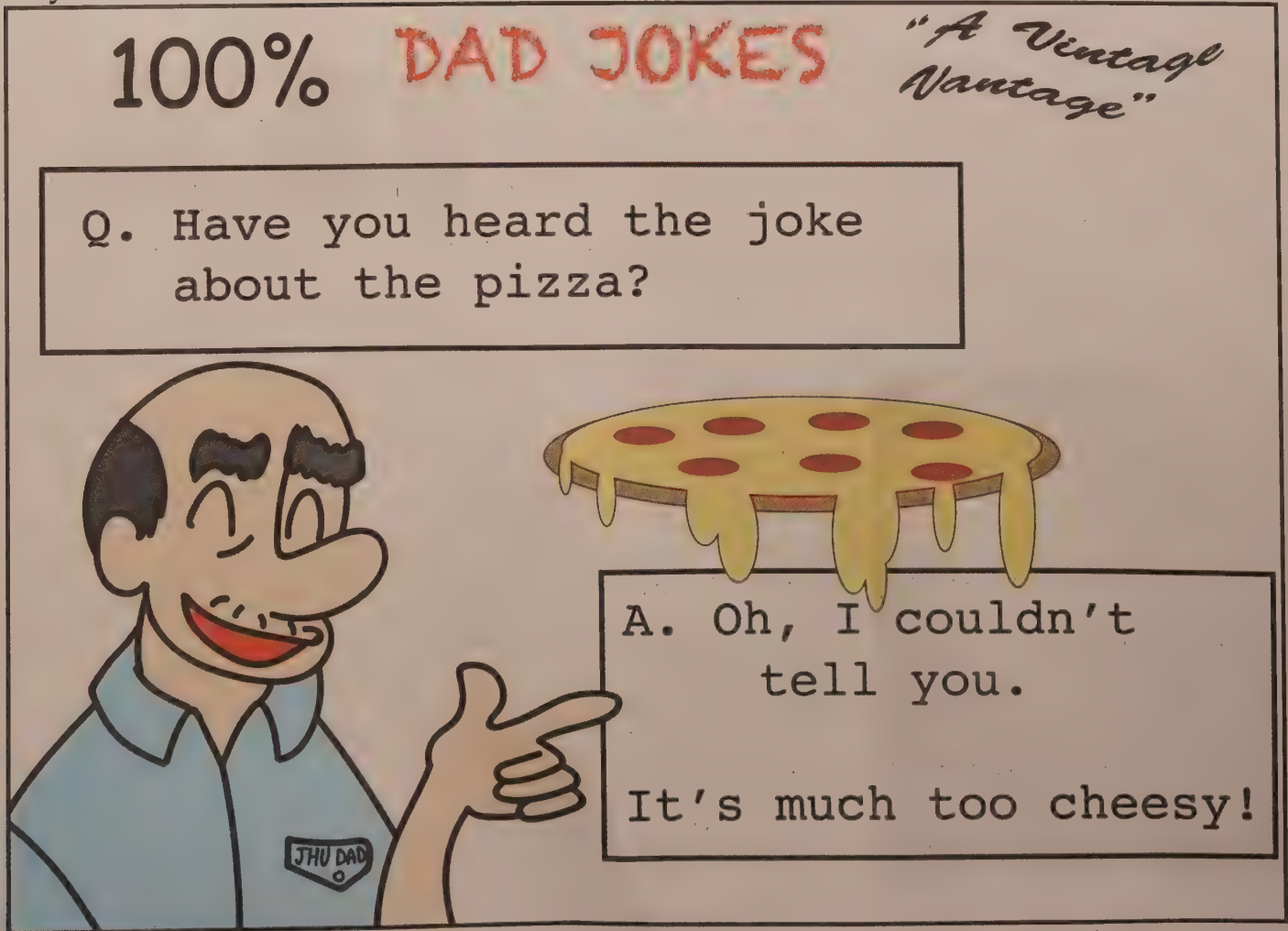
Panels^1

By Erica Schwarz



Hey There Kids!

By Stephanie Herrera



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Hopkins awards annual research scholarships *Personality linked to brain structure*

By ELAINE CHIAO
Staff Writer

At Hopkins, there is a kind of research for everyone, whether it is wet lab research at the Hopkins Hospital, clinical research at the Bloomberg School of Public Health or research through other institutions and study abroad programs. Amidst all of these opportunities, Hopkins also provides research scholarships for students that wish to investigate independent research projects.

Every year, Hopkins awards a handful of undergraduates the Dean's Undergraduate Research Awards (DURA) and the Provost's Undergraduate Research Awards (PURA).

DURA are funding opportunities provided to selected students in the Krieger School of Arts & Sciences (KSAS) who demonstrate a strong passion for independent research.

These awards can range anywhere from \$500 to \$3,000, depend-



Tommy Koh, a DURA recipient, has researched Singapore's semi-democratic and authoritarian regime.

ing on the nature of the research and the associated cost of execution.

The application process for DURA typically begins in February, applicants get notified of their status in April or May and recipients of the awards can start conducting research the following summer.

PURA, on the other hand, can be granted to Hopkins students in the Peabody Institute, KSAS and Whiting School of Engineering (WSE). Selected members for both PURA and DURA need to submit the findings of their research either through a paper, reflection or presentation.

"I first learned about PURA and DURA during freshman spring through the academic advising office," Tommy Koh, a junior and a DURA recipient, said.

Koh wanted to do his independent research project on a topic that is timely and relevant. He decided to focus his research on the political legitimization of Singapore, an authoritarian and semi-democratic regime. This topic also holds personal importance to Koh

since he is a native of Singapore who received a full scholarship to Hopkins from the Singaporean government.

Koh plans on graduating by the end of this year. He is going to continue his higher education by pursuing a Master's Degree in either sociology or public policy. Eventually, Koh wants to return to Singapore to work in the civil service.

Students who receive DURA and PURA can use the funding on any research-relevant expenses, including, but not limited to, traveling, purchasing equipment and supplies and collecting data.

Students also have the opportunity to work closely with a faculty mentor during and

SEE AWARD, PAGE B8

By ANNA CHEN
For The News-Letter

Personality is a multifaceted quality with numerous possible influencing factors, making it intriguing and yet difficult to measure and study. We are constantly shaped by our experiences and environment.

However, in a recent study published in the journal *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, a team of researchers from the United States, the United Kingdom and Italy observed that different personality traits in individuals are also linked to differences in brain structure.

Psychologists break the immense variety of human personality into five major traits: neuroticism, extraversion, openness, agreeableness and conscientiousness. Using these five traits, scientists in the aforementioned study examined the connection between personality and the anatomy of the cortex, or the outermost layer of the brain.

To do so, they used an imaging dataset of more than 500 healthy individuals between the ages of 22 and 36. The dataset used was made publicly available by the National Institutes of Health as part of the Human Connectome Project, an effort launched to generate a greater understanding for the neural pathways that dictate brain function.

In each individual, they looked at the thickness, area and amount of folding in the cortex.

These are significant indices of brain anatomy because, according to senior author Dr. Luca Passamonti from the Department of Clinical Neurosciences at the University of Cambridge, the brain has an important evolutionary mechanism that allows it to fold upon itself. This folding increases its surface area so that the brain can continue to expand while still fitting into the skull.

"It's like stretching a folding a rubber sheet — this increases the surface area, but the sheet itself becomes thinner," he said.

This concept, known as the cortical stretching hypothesis, is a process that occurs throughout human development, from the womb and into adulthood. During brain development, the thickness of the cortex decreases while the area and folding increase.

While observing how these three characteristics of cortex structure correlate to the five major personality traits, researchers found that high levels of neuroticism, marking a possible predisposition for neuropsychiatric disorders, were associated with increased thickness as well as reduced area and folding in certain parts of the cortex, such as

SEE BRAIN, PAGE B9

Universe is expanding faster than expected

By ISAAC CHEN
For The News-Letter

A group of international astronomers, led by Sherry Suyu of the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics, made new and independent measurements of how fast our current universe is expanding. This expansion rate, also known as the Hubble Constant, plays a crucial role in modern astronomy for its ability to help verify our picture of the universe.

This project, the H0LiCOW collaboration, was done by observing five distant galaxies through the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope and other telescopes in space and on the ground. The team determined the Hubble constant to be 71.9 ± 2.4 kilometers per second per Megaparsec (one Megaparsec is equivalent to 3.26 million light-years).

"Our method is the most simple and direct way to measure the Hubble constant as it only uses geometry and General Relativity, no other assumptions," Frédéric Courbin of École polytechnique fédérale de

Lausanne (EPFL) said in a recent ESA article.

Massive entities such as galaxies have incredibly strong gravitational fields that bend spacetime and light itself. This phenomenon, called "strong gravitational lensing," was first predicted by Albert Einstein. The team was able to measure the Hubble constant by using the galaxies observed as lenses that produce multiple images of a distant quasar, or an extremely bright galaxy core.

Since the light emitted by a quasar changes over time, the flickering patterns in the images are the same but delayed in time. This delay occurs mainly due to two factors. First, the gravitational force of the galaxy might alter the time measurement for patterns.

Second, the light travels in different paths because galaxies and quasars are not aligned perfectly. This path distance is also dependent on the expansion rate of the universe, or the Hubble constant. The time delay from multiple images allows Suyu's team to directly measure the

SEE UNIVERSE, PAGE B9



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Five galaxies were used to measure current universe expansion rate.

Brain hormone serotonin may lead to weight loss

By SHERRY SIMKOVIC
Staff Writer

Neuroscientists at The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) recently discovered how serotonin, a brain hormone, can lead to weight loss.

In recent years, biologists have learned that different regions of the brain are able to individually control how your body metabolizes fat. However, until recently, researchers did not understand how the brain was able to do so.

In previous studies, Supriya Srinivasan, a biologist at TSRI, and her team uncovered the 5-HT circuit in the intestine of *Caenorhabditis elegans*, the signaling pathway for fat metabolism in the roundworm.

In the new study, Srinivasan and her TSRI group identified the required protein and its receptor that stimulate the breakdown of fats in response to serotonin.

Neurons in the brain pick up on certain sensory cues like food availability and produce serotonin in response. Serotonin acts as a messenger, telling a different set of neurons to begin producing the protein, called FLP-7. It circulates through the blood to the intestinal cells and instructs those cells to begin breaking down fat to make energy.

Srinivasan's team created *C. elegans* mutants by deleting two genes, *unc-13* and *unc-31*, that

are responsible for transporting neurotransmitters and neuropeptides, respectively. In this way, the team could determine whether fat metabolism relies more heavily upon neurotransmitters or neuropeptides.

Results showed that *C. elegans* with the *unc-31* deletion retained almost all of their body fat, indicating that neuropeptides are responsible for stimulating fat metabolism.

From there, the team began to change the expression levels of different genes that code for neuropeptides, looking for the one with the highest fat retention rate. They determined that when the gene *flp-7* expresses its corresponding protein, FLP-7, in overabundant amounts, the *C. elegans* loses most of its body fat.

The FLP-7 protein greatly resembles proteins of the mammalian Tachykinin. About 80 years ago, scientists identified Tachykinin as a protein that caused contractions in the gut. However, no one suspected that it was linked to fat metabolism.



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Roundworms were used as models to detect the signaling pathway for fat metabolism.

To visualize where in the body *flp-7* is active and which neurons are releasing the protein, the team used fluorescent microscopy. They determined that the protein was expressed in neurons in the head but not in neurons in the intestines or muscles.

Next, the team wanted to establish a direct causal link between serotonin levels and FLP-7 expression. Lavinia Palamuiuc, a TSRI research associate, used fluorescent microscopy to observe FLP-7 in living animals. Her results suggest that neurons in the brain secrete FLP-7 in response to elevated serotonin levels.

She was then able to visualize how FLP-7 travels through the circulatory system to start the

fat burning process in the gut.

Despite mediating fat retention, FLP-7 does not alter food intake, ability to move or reproduction. The research as a whole suggests a novel model for neurons to sense food availability from the environment and subsequently regulate metabolism.

"That was a big moment for us," Srinivasan said. The findings in *C. elegans* could have big impacts on future pharmaceutical production.

Palamuiuc suggested that a major potential challenge in the future would be to decipher the relationship between nutrient sensing in the nervous system and the mechanisms governing the secretion of each distinct neuropeptide.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Wrap up: the latest in technology...

By WILLIAM XIE
Staff Writer

Tesla Motors, Inc. rebranded as Tesla, Inc.

Tesla Motors has now officially been renamed Tesla. The renaming of the multibillion dollar company reflects its recent expansion beyond automobiles to energy storage. The official name of Tesla was anticipated to change after the change of its URL last year from Teslamotors.com to Tesla.com.

Tesla officially acquired SolarCity in November 2016, marking its committed focus to solar energy storage. Since then Tesla has developed solar energy storage products for commercial and home use.

The about page on Tesla's website sums up its change:

"Tesla is not just an automaker, but also a technology and design company with a focus on energy innovation."

Apple to make iPhones in India

According to Priyank Kharge, minister of information technology and biotechnology in the southern Indian state of Karnataka, Apple will start a manufacturing operation in Karnataka.

He expressed his approval on Twitter, "Apple's intentions to make iPhones in Bengaluru will foster cutting-edge technology ecosystem and supply chain development in the state."

The capital of Karnataka, Bengaluru, is a technology hub where Apple has already based to develop software and design.

Although Apple has not officially confirmed the plan of manufacturing in Karnataka, Apple held several meetings with government officials to plan for the huge investment.

Increase of Adblock Software Usage

PageFair, a startup that works to sustain the open web and assist companies that suffer from digital advertisement blocking, reported a 30 percent annual increase in ad blocking.

In total the report estimates 11 percent of internet users used some form of ad blocking software last year. This accounts for more than 600 million devices and billions of ads blocked.

Adblock has accumulated criticism from technology giants such as Facebook and Google which host billions of ads. These companies have been fighting against Adblock software, but new startups have popped up to reintroduce ad blocking tools. Critics argue that by blocking ads, users are denying content creators the revenue from ads that oftentimes make up the majority of creators' revenue.

Uber CEO leaves Trump's Advisory Council

Uber CEO Travis Kalanick is resigning from President Donald Trump's economic council, according to a memo he wrote to his employees.

After facing criticism from Uber staff, employees and social media, Kalanick revealed his intention to quit Thursday.

"Joining the group was not meant to be an endorsement of the president or his agenda but unfortunately it has been interpreted to be exactly that," Kalanick wrote in his memo.

Trump recently issued an executive order banning entry to people from seven Muslim-majority countries. The executive order left tech companies outraged, as many rely on immigrant labor and are immigrant-founded. Many companies have actively opposed Trump's stance.

Eating at night does not cause weight gain

By SABRINA CHEN
Science & Technology Editor

Anyone who has dieted has heard the myth: To lose weight, "Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a pauper."

Many nutritionists argue that our body's metabolism slows at night, especially when we sleep. Therefore the calories we consume at night could count more than the calories we eat throughout the day, when we are active.

In 2008 the journal *Obesity* published an article that stated even when the total calories consumed were the same, eating at night could cause twice as much weight gain. The study had been carried out at Northwestern Univer-

sity using mice as models.

However *Obesity* recently published a new finding in their current edition of the journal. Scientists have used the rhesus monkey model to tackle the myth of weight gain from late night eating. The study was done at the Oregon National Primate Research Center at the Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU).

"We've all been told at one point in our lives that we should avoid eating meals late at night since it will lead to weight gain. However, our research in rhesus monkeys, which are considered an excellent model for studying primate (man and monkey) obesity issues, showed

that eating at night is no more likely to promote weight gain than eating during the day," Judy Cameron, a senior scientist in the Divisions of Reproductive Sciences and Neuroscience at the OHSU Oregon National Primate Research Center, said in a press release. "Of course this research does not suggest that snacking at night after eating your normal daily ration of calories is a good idea."

"Calories cause weight gain no matter when you eat them."
— ELINOR SULLIVAN,
OREGON NATIONAL PRIMATE RESEARCH CENTER

To conduct the study researchers placed 16 female monkeys on a high-fat diet similar to that of humans in the United States and other western countries. The researchers studied the monkeys for a year and observed that monkeys ate between six percent and 64 percent of their total calories at night.

This was an interesting parallel to humans who eat approximately 24 percent to 65 percent of their total calories at night.

"It was really interesting to see that the monkeys who ate most of their food at night were no more likely to gain weight than monkeys who rarely ate at night," Elinor Sullivan, an OHSU graduate student conducting research along with Cameron at the Oregon National Primate Research Center, said in a press release. "This suggests that calories cause weight gain

no matter when you eat them."

Furthermore during the study, the monkeys had their ovaries removed to simulate a menopause-like state in the monkeys compared to human female menopause. The scientists did this because they wanted to study how the contribution of menopause could add to weight gain in middle-aged women.

The study showed that monkeys gained about five percent more weight after their ovaries were removed. This could show that the ovarian hormones can contribute to weight gain in humans as well.

However there are still many good reasons to be cautious about eating at night. One reason is that many people use late night snacking to cope with boredom or stress. Thus these snacking portions are less likely to be controlled and more likely to consist of high calorie foods such as chips, soda, cookies or candy.

Furthermore because many of these snacks are usually consumed in front of a television or computer or while studying, people don't realize that they are eating far more than they planned to, because they are not paying attention to their food while eating. In addition eating at night can also cause indigestion and sleeping problems.

Aromatic hydrocarbons increase cancer risk



LUMOS3/PUBLIC DOMAIN

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons have lingering carcinogenic effects.

By JOAN YEA
Senior Staff Writer

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are naturally occurring chemicals released by the combustion of organic matter, including wood, coal, oil and gasoline. As a result of increased biofuel consumption in recent years, PAHs have become major pollutants in the atmosphere and 15 PAHs have been identified as carcinogens.

One of the most highly carcinogenic PAHs, benzo[a]pyrene (BaP), has been identified as a key pollutant in many countries and is used to estimate cancer risk resulting from exposure to PAHs in general. The incomplete understanding of the atmospheric degradation process of PAHs, however, has led to puzzlement over the persistence and long-range movement of the molecules. Previous simulations of the degradation process had failed to account for the significantly higher than expected PAH levels measured in the environment.

To resolve this discrepancy, a team of scientists from the Oregon State University, the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Peking University recently demonstrated a new model of the PAH degradation process. Instead of considering a model of unshielded gaseous BaP, the investigators based their simulation upon BaP bound to atmospheric particles. The low volatility of BaP makes it likely to become particle-bound and trapped in organic aerosol coatings, according to the research team's proposal.

As detailed in the paper published online this month in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, the oxidation of PAHs by ozone is limited to the surface of the aerosol coatings, and the more viscous the aerosol, the more shielded the PAHs from oxidation and decomposition. The lifetime of BaP, according to the shielded formulation, is around five days compared to the much shorter lifetime of two hours predicted by the unshielded BaP simulation.

This elongated lifetime of shielded BaP could contribute to the pollutant's ability to cover long distances from major source regions of emissions, such as Africa, East Asia and Western Europe, which altogether contribute to 63 percent of global BaP levels. In contrast based on the unshielded BaP model, most BaP is localized over

the source regions.

The investigators found that the unshielded BaP simulation significantly underestimated the amount and distribution of BaP in comparison with the new estimates from the shielded model. It more closely approximated the BaP measurements taken from more than 300 urban and rural sites worldwide. The novel simulation also led the research team to compute a much higher global incremental lifetime cancer risk due to PAHs.

The currently acceptable limit of increased cancer risk, as established by the World Health Organization (WHO), is one death per 100,000 individuals. The new shielded formulation, however, predicted a global cancer risk of two deaths per 100,000 individuals, nearly the quadruple of the estimate of lung cancer risk (0.6 deaths per 100,000 individuals) ascertained from the unshielded BaP simulation.

In spite of the increased global risk, not all regions showed signs of an elevated cancer risk above the WHO's limit. The highest liability to PAH-induced cancer was discovered to be in East Asia, which, according to the shielded BaP model, is four times the acceptable limit. On the other hand the United States not only contributes to only two percent of global BaP emissions, but it also exhibits an insignificant increased cancer risk well below the WHO's limit.

The researchers were concerned, however, about the possible toxicity and lingering carcinogenic effects of oxidation products of BaP and other PAHs. Even after oxidation some PAHs have been shown to remain particle-bound and retain harmful properties. While PAHs undergo a faster degradation process in the tropics where the aerosol coating becomes more liquid-like in warm and humid conditions, the possibility of adverse health effects remains.

In a press release Manish Shrivastava, lead author and climate scientist at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, said "We need to better understand how the shielding of PAHs varies with the complexity of aerosol composition, atmospheric chemical aging of aerosols, temperature and relative humidity."

Additional studies concerning the atmospheric lifetime of PAHs would be required to better quantify the increased cancer risks due to exposure to these pollutants, oxidized or not.

Students awarded DURA/PURA research funding

FROM AWARDS B7

possibly beyond, the duration of the research project.

DURA are open to all freshmen, sophomores and juniors in the Kirger School of Arts & Sciences. Students in the humanities, natural sciences and social sciences are all encouraged to apply.

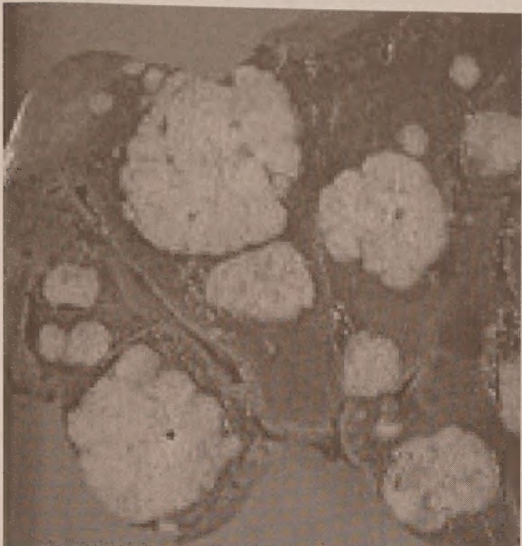
The application is a holistic process involving a proposal of the topic the student seeks to explore, the question the student hopes to answer through research as well as other personal qualifications.

Other research projects that have been con-

ducted through DURA in the past include investigating patient views on alternative consent models and studying the structures of epimerase function during biosynthesis.

"Research is essentially a puzzle you're trying to solve, and you must be familiar with the language of the research position. You must have a clear grasp of the big picture of the puzzle you're looking at as well as the nature of the missing pieces," Koh said. "From there on, you also need to figure out how you are going to approach the puzzle."

Studies show longer cancer survival rates



HAYMANJ/CC-BY-2.0
Pancreatic tumors are treatable by surgical removal only at early stages.

By **SABRINA CHEN**
Science & Technology Editor

A recent clinical study conducted by the charity Pancreatic Cancer UK showed that a combination of two chemotherapy drugs helped to extend survival time for pancreatic cancer patients. A separate research study showed an increase in survival rate for patients suffering from lung cancer. Pancreatic cancer has the worst survival rate among the commonest forms of cancer, while lung cancer has the second worst survival rate.

Out of the 10,000 people who are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer each year in the UK, 80 percent of patients are diagnosed at an advanced stage, which explains its lethal nature. During the early stages, when the pancreatic tumor would be treatable by surgical removal, there are usually no symptoms. In the UK, only about 800 patients benefit from surgery. Surgery frequently leaves behind microscopic aggressive tumor cells that cause a recurrence of cancer.

About 95 percent of people with pancreatic cancer die from it, usually within the first year after diagnosis. Pancreatic cancer has a one percent survival rate for ten or more years after diagnosis. Furthermore, the survival rate for the disease has barely risen in the past four decades.

“These results are a monumental leap forward in pancreatic cancer treatment. We believe this could herald a true step change in the treatment of this tough cancer, offering substantially more patients who have had surgery the chance to live for longer and, crucially, without significant added side-effects,” said Leanne Reynolds, head of research at Pancreatic Cancer UK.

The study was carried out by European Study Group for Pancreatic Cancer (ESPAC-04), and included a total of 732 patients from six different countries: England, Scotland, Wales, Germany, France and Sweden. The two drugs that the researchers paired to give to the subjects were gemcitabine and capecitabine.

Both drugs are standard chemotherapy drugs given to pancreatic cancer patients.

The study recorded that 16.3 percent of subjects who received just gemcitabine survived for at least five years. On the other hand, 28.8 percent of subjects who were given both gemcitabine and capecitabine survived for the same amount of time.

“This is one of the biggest ever breakthroughs prolonging survival for pancreatic cancer patients,” John Neoptolemos of Liverpool University, who led the team of researchers, said. “When this combination becomes the new standard of care it will give many patients living with the disease valuable months and even years.”

On the other hand, a research study published by the United Kingdom National Health Service showed that the number of people surviving for at least a year after diagnosis of lung cancer rose from 31 percent to 38 percent from the years 2010 to 2015. The study was done by compiling information from NHS’s audit of the quality of care for patients. The records of 43,000 people diagnosed with lung cancer were analyzed.

I a n Woolhouse, the audit’s Senior Clinical Lead and the rest of his team noted that the progress was likely due to how lung

cancer is treated. For example in 2015, 60 percent of lung cancer patients received some form of anti-cancer treatment, a 20 percent increase from 2010.

Woolhouse added that even with this progress, improvement in survival rates should continue to increase in the future. For example though the nationwide target is 90 percent, only 57 percent of patients are seen by a specialist lung cancer nurse.

“We are pleased to see this encouraging increase in patient survival. However, there is much still to do to ensure that lung cancer patients are diagnosed as early as possible and are able to access best practice treatment and care,” Dr. Jesme Fox, medical director of the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation said.

Scientists unearth LSD binding mechanism

By **RAYYAN JOKHAI**
Staff Writer

One of the most commonly known hallucinogens has actually gone misunderstood for quite some time now. Lysergic acid diethylamide, usually referred to as “LSD” or “acid”, is one of the most potent hallucinogens, and its effects can last for over 12 hours after the initial usage.

However the mechanism behind such long-lasting results has baffled scientists for a while. The main component to the psychedelic’s capabilities has to do with its ability to fit into receptors in the brain. This was first published in *Cell* on Jan. 26.

“When I was younger, and The Grateful Dead was still around, I would occasionally go to Grateful Dead concerts. A lot of people took LSD and similar drugs during concerts, and it would be interesting to be in the parking lot hearing people wondering when their LSD experience was going to end,” Bryan Roth, professor of pharmacology at University of North Carolina and senior coauthor on the study said. “A lot of people who take the drug are not aware of just how long it lasts.”

Roth’s team at UNC used crystallography to visualize LSD bonding in the brain. Crystallography enables researchers to see how the molecule’s atoms are arranged in a 3-D structure. With this technique, the team was able to unearth the way LSD binds to human serotonin receptors. Much to their surprise, they found that LSD was squeezed into the receptor’s binding site at an

unimagined angle.

Furthermore, part of the receptor protein actually covered the LSD molecule, trapping the drug.

“Once LSD gets in the receptor, a lid comes over the LSD, so it’s basically trapped in the receptor and can’t get out. LSD takes a really long time to get on the receptor, and then once it gets on, it doesn’t get off.” Roth said.

Despite LSD’s rather miniscule dosage at approximately 100 micrograms, the study results elucidate the reasoning behind the fact that LSD trips can last for an entire day.

Beyond recreational drug use, the potential application of LSD to treat various medical illnesses has been explored in the recent past. Illustrating how LSD is able to have such strong, durable effects can enable researchers who synthesize drugs to design more effective medications.

O n e such potential application is called LSD micro-dosing. In this use of the psychedelic, users take a dose that is far too small to cause the hallucinogenic effects of LSD, but can still spark creativity and battle depression.

As the

statistic stands, one in 10 Americans have taken LSD at least once, but this number is rapidly increasing as micro-dosing is becoming more and more popular.

The field of micro-dosing is largely unexplored and current research is often conflicting. Some researchers suggest that micro-dosing has no noticeable effect since the amount taken is far too small. However Roth’s lab has introduced micro-doses of LSD to live cells in Petri dishes and effects have been observed.

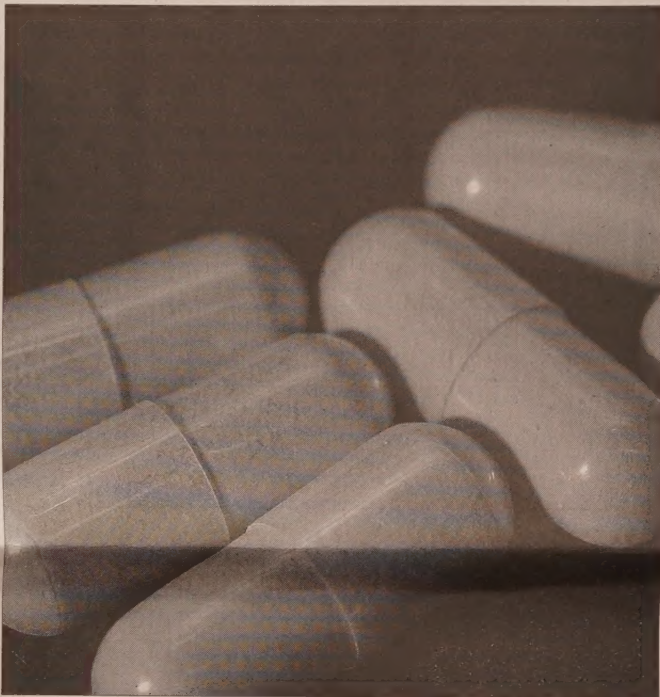
Nonetheless, this is no solid indication of how such dosages affect a person’s mood or creativity.

The pairing of LSD and the receptor it fits into seems almost perfect, as the structure of the drug and receptor are so compatible. Researchers in Roth’s group have tried exposing cells with larger, less rigid lids to

LSD. The long-lasting effects LSD is known to have were not observed this time, however, as the compound bound very quickly to the receptor and excited it much faster.

“I think it’s important for the pharmaceutical industry to understand that even if you modify just one tiny aspect of any compound, you may affect the way the entire compound sits in the receptor, and that affects the compound’s performance,” Daniel Wacker, a postdoctoral student at UNC said.

LSD is still illegal in the United States and can be very dangerous to the user and those around them. However the importance of understanding the mechanism it undergoes in the human body is undeniable due to its immense influence on pop culture and its possible medical uses.



DLMEDIA/CC-BY-2.0
LSD is a psychedelic drug used to cause hallucinogenic effects and spark creativity.

Hubble constant verifies universe expansion

UNIVERSE, FROM B7
Hubble constant.

Imagine three families going on road trips from Baltimore to Disney World in Orlando, Fla. over the summer. Each family sets out on their journey at the same time, from the same starting point but take distinct paths to get there. The different times each family arrives to their destination is the time delay. The traffic conditions while traveling is analogous to the first factor and the distinct paths are analogous to the second factor.

The accurate measurements and cutting edge technology allowed the team to determine

the constant with an impressive 3.8 percent precision.

“The expansion rate of the Universe is now starting to be measured in different ways with such high precision that actual discrepancies may possibly point towards new physics beyond our current knowledge of the Universe,” Suyu said in a recent ESA article.

This result was in agreement with the value of 73.24 ± 1.74 kilometers per second per megaparsec generated earlier using Cepheids (pulsating stars) and supernovae (exploding stars). This measurement was done by a team led by Adam Riess, a Noble

Laureate and Bloomberg Distinguished Professor at Hopkins.

However, both values measured by Suyu’s team and Riess’s team are different from the value that was measured by the ESA Planck satellite (66.93 ± 0.62 kilometers per second per megaparsec). The important distinction is that Suyu’s team and Riess’s team measured the Hubble constant in the local universe, whereas the Planck satellite measured the constant in the early universe.

In other words, our current universe is expanding at a rate faster than the universe shortly after the Big Bang.

This difference between the expansion rates of the early universe and current universe points to a critical component that is missing from our understanding of the universe.

“This surprising finding may be an important clue to understanding those mysterious parts of the Universe that make up 95 percent of everything and don’t emit light, such as dark energy, dark matter, and dark radiation,” Riess explains in an ESA article published last June.

This research was presented in a series of papers in the *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*.

Study shows brain structure linked to personality

BRAIN, FROM B7
the prefrontal-temporal cortices at the front of the brain.

Openness, however, a trait associated with creativity, curiosity and eagerness, was linked to reduced thickness and an increase in area and folding in a similar region of the prefrontal cortices.

Interestingly scientists also found that neuroticism decreases as we grow older (people can better manage their emotions).

In contrast, conscien-

tiousness and agreeableness tend to go up with age (people become more responsible and less hostile as they mature).

Since cortex thickness decreases and folding increases with age as our brains continue to develop, this further supports the discovery that neuroticism and the other major personality traits are influenced by brain anatomy.

The results of the study support the idea that personality is to some degree associated

with brain development, a process of maturation that is strongly dictated by genetics.

This conclusion also agrees with the notion that some fundamental personality characteristics can sometimes be recognized in early stages of human development, such as during the infant years.

More importantly, the findings from this study have implications other than a speculation about personality. The results may help us better under-

stand brain disorders.

“Linking how brain structure is related to basic personality traits is a crucial step to improving our understanding of the link between the brain morphology and particular mood, cognitive or behavioral disorders,” Dr. Passamonti said. “We also need to have a better understanding of the relation between brain structure and function in healthy people to figure out what is different in people with neurological and psychiatric disorders.”

SPORTS

Belichick and Brady should be admired



Gaurav Verma
Sportpinion

This past Sunday, during Super Bowl LI, Tom Brady and Bill Belichick wrote another chapter in what could be considered a quintessential American success story. Down 25 points halfway through the third quarter, with a predicted 0.3 percent chance of winning the game, the New England Patriots defied all odds and achieved the greatest comeback in Super Bowl history.

At halftime, it looked like the Patriots were going to be outright embarrassed in front of the whole country. After all, no team had overcome a deficit greater than 10 points in the Super Bowl, a feat that the Patriots accomplished against the Seattle Seahawks two years ago to win Super Bowl XLIX.

However, Brady and Belichick have spent their entire careers defying conventions and expectations. Brady, not even the most regarded quarterback at the University of Michigan, had to wait until the 199th pick to hear his name called in the 2000 NFL Draft. His footage at the scouting combine showed someone with little athleticism and a frame that was not too different from your average physically active American. Simply put, he lacked the physical stature and athleticism of a more highly touted player coming out of college, like Michael Vick.

Belichick also spent his entire career beating the odds. As the son of a longtime coach for the United States Naval Academy, Belichick spent his entire life around football. Yet, his first opportunity as a head coach ended in him getting fired from the hapless Cleveland Browns.

Even through his tenure with the Patriots, Belichick has faced the scorn of the media and fans for his seemingly questionable personnel moves and draft selections which have often resulted in star players being jettisoned from the team and under-the-radar players being selected over top prospects.

Yet, year in and year out, Belichick has silenced all those who question him. Since 2001, the Patriots have only missed the playoffs twice. One of those seasons was the year in which the team finished 11-5 despite having quarterback Matt Cassel start all season long. For the past six seasons, the team has made the AFC Championship Game, an unprecedented feat in the era of salary cap parity.

Meanwhile, in the past two years, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has orchestrated a smear campaign against Tom Brady and the Patriots. Much

has been said about "deflategate," but the fact of the matter is that Goodell suspended Brady and punished the Patriots without any substantial proof of wrongdoing. Making matters worse, media organizations such as ESPN were all too willing to join in.

Apart from having his reputation sullied without proof, it was recently revealed that Brady's mother was undergoing chemotherapy, unable to make a single game this season. In the week leading up to the Super Bowl, it became clear that his mother's illness was weighing on Brady heavily. The Super Bowl would be the first time Brady's mother got to see him play in person all season.

Despite all of this adversity, the stage was set for a Hollywood ending for Brady and the Patriots. That is, until kickoff, when the game began to turn into more of a nightmare.

After regrouping at halftime, Brady, Belichick and the Patriots did what they have developed a reputation of doing. They did their job. And they did not give up, even when facing the longest odds.

In doing so, Brady and Belichick further add to their legacies as they look to cement their status at the greatest quarterback and head coach to play in NFL history. The former sixth round pick and the head coach previously fired from the Browns have consistently accomplished what commentators and statistical models said they could not do.

This is, after all, why we watch sports. More than just entertainment, sports provide inspiration for life off the field. It teaches us lessons that are applicable in our personal life. Sports have the power to unite and inspire, and unlike a fictional book or movie, they are not scripted.

So many people across the country vilify Tom Brady and Bill Belichick and see them as everything they despise. They are wealthy, powerful and successful, certainly attracting jealousy.

Yet, to those people, I point to Brady and Belichick's humble beginnings and have them see the lessons that they can learn from the duo. Brady and Belichick's hard work, dedication to their craft and persistence in the face of adversity is applicable

to the entrepreneur looking to build and expand their business or to the student working towards their medical degree.

Rather than being public enemies, Brady and Belichick should be seen as true American success stories whose characteristics should be admired as opposed to scorned.

As the duck boats paraded through Boston on this week's snowy Tuesday afternoon, Patriots fans celebrated. Meanwhile, Belichick was already focused on the season ahead, quipping that the Patriots are already five weeks behind the rest of the NFL in preparing for the coming season. For the dynamic duo, the quest for another Super Bowl ring begins anew.

Wrestling loses final two meets of season

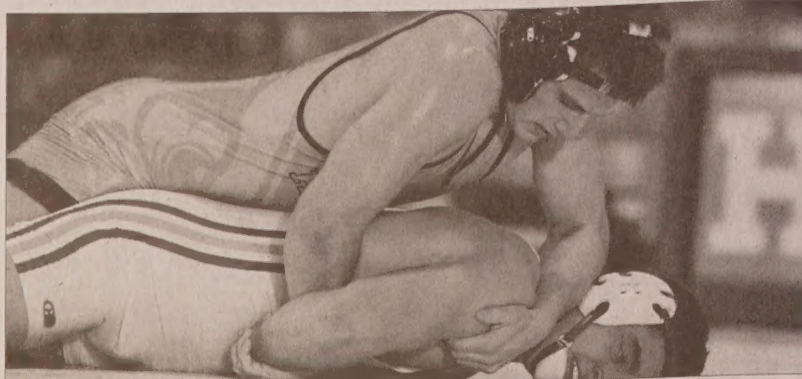
WRESTLING, FROM B12
the second fastest pin of the year by a Blue Jay.

Battling against the sixth-ranked Stevens Institute of Technology (SIT) Ducks, the Jays started out strong with a nice burst of momentum out of the gate. In the 125-pound division, Cavallo scored a 10-8 regular decision victory over the defending Centennial Conference champion and 2016 NCAA Regional runner-up, senior Rob Murray.

An injury to 133-pounder Vallis gave the Ducks six points and quickly shifted the score to 6-3, but junior Lucas Escobar's 7-6 victory at the 141 pound spot tied the match at 6-6. The Ducks quickly shot back by capturing two wins by technical fall in the 149 and 157 pound bouts, giving Stevens the lead back at 16-6.

The 10-point deficit would not last long, however, as the Blue Jays fired back to narrow the deficit to three after sophomore Dane Morgan secured an 8-2 victory at 165 pounds and Forman captured a major decision win, 13-5, at the 177 pound slot.

The three-point deficit



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

Miles Gilliam was a standout wrestler for the Jays last weekend, posting a 2-0 record in the season finale.

lingered after Hopkins and Stevens traded technical falls, with sophomore Miles Gilliam giving his team five points to secure an 18-0 victory at 197, putting the deficit back at three and making the score 21-18.

Stevens went on to win the match after scoring a pin at 285, stretching the score to 27-18 and securing the victory for the sixth-ranked Ducks.

Stevens completed its regular season with a flawless 22-0 record while going 7-0 in the Conference, the 29th undefeated season in SIT's history.

In the second half of the dual match, the Blue

Jays matched up against the Washington & Lee Diplomats. Cavallo won by forfeit and notched six points for the visiting Hopkins squad before Washington & Lee surged back with five straight victories, gaining a lead of 21-6.

Forman and Gilliam once again earned wins, with Forman winning in a 10-5 decision and Gilliam earning bonus points through a major decision on his opponent in a 9-0 contest.

Forman's victory was his 20th of the season, which leads the team, and stretches his overall record for this season to 20-12.

The Diplomats secured their victory further with a minor decision win at the 285-pound slot. They finished off the Blue Jays with a score of 27-13 and wrapped up the regular season at 8-7 with a 4-3 record in the Centennial Conference.

The two losses wrap up the 2016-2017 season for the Blue Jays as they finish the regular season posting a 5-10 overall record and a 3-4 conference record, earning the Jays fifth place in the Conference.

The Blue Jays will next be in action when they travel to Hoboken's Canavan Arena on Feb. 11 for the Centennial Conference Championships.

Is it the end of Carmelo's New York nightmare?



Andrew Johnson
Sportpinion

The boos rained down at Madison Square Garden as the home-team fans directed their anger at the team's beleaguered star after yet another ugly miss. The New York Knicks trailed the Cleveland Cavaliers 87-54 as the third quarter stretched to a close. Eventually, the Knicks would rally but fall just short in the fourth. Carmelo Anthony, finishing with 17 points on a highly inefficient 6-20 line from the field, was brought to New York as the franchise savior but was now its biggest scapegoat.

The Anthony-New York marriage was supposed to end in confetti showers and parades down Broadway, as the hometown kid from Brooklyn wanted so desperately to bring a championship to his city. Now, it seems apparent that Anthony will be unceremoniously cast out of New York for cents on the dollar.

How did it get to this point for Anthony and the Knicks? An argument can be made that the pairing was doomed from the start. The 2011 deal that sent Anthony from the Denver Nuggets to the Big Apple forced the Knicks to ship off Wilson Chandler, Raymond Felton, Danilo Gallinari and Timofey Mozgov. Gallinari and Chandler became solid regulars for a talented Nuggets team, and the trade badly depleted the Knicks' roster, especially considering Anthony could have just joined the team as a free agent the following summer.

The tandem of Anthony and Amar'e Stoudemire

produced playoff appearances in 2012 and 2013, but the team had a 7-14 mark in the playoffs and got out of the first round just once. Stoudemire's knees would tragically give out and render him largely ineffective, and the barren Knicks roster struggled with Anthony carrying the full offensive burden.

The arrival of the dynamic Kristaps Porzingis in 2015 brought renewed excitement to the Knicks. After receiving initial hatred from fans for the pick, the team almost doubled their 2014 win total, going 32-50 last season. Expectations were high in 2016 with the arrival of Derrick Rose and Joakim Noah, and the team raced out to an early 14-10 mark. However, the Knicks have gone 8-21 as they battle defensive deficiencies and an aging core.

Anthony has faced criticism from Knicks President Phil Jackson for his ball stopping play on offense; Anthony has a tendency to hold onto the ball for too long and operate in isolation sets. He relies heavily on mid-range jump shots, an archaic style of play that has become almost extinct in the modern NBA. Just look to the Golden State Warriors and the Houston Rockets, two of the League's most successful teams who have shifted to a small ball, high octane style that emphasizes three-point shooting.

Anthony, who is still a valuable player in this League and is capable of creating offense and putting up points, has received a lot of unfair criticism. He is averaging 22.9 points and six rebounds on 44 percent from the field and 35 percent from three. However, at this point in his career, Anthony is not capable of serving as the primary scoring option if a team hopes to be a championship contender.

Detractors have also suggested that Anthony may be stunting the development of Porzingis, a 7 feet 2 inches wonderkid who has the talent, defensive prowess and shoot-

ing touch to be a bonafide superstar. Anthony takes too many shots for his own good at times, often preventing the young Porzingis from asserting himself in critical situations at the end of games. With the Knicks preparing for a rebuild, it may be time to ship Anthony off and let Porzingis develop as the primary scoring option.

With the trade deadline looming on Feb. 23, the Knicks must decide whether they wish to part with their former franchise cornerstone. Complicating matters is the fact that Anthony has a no-trade clause and can therefore veto a trade to any suitor that does not please him.

Although he can no longer be the face of a franchise, there are a number of playoff teams that could use his scoring on the wing to boost their championship credentials. A Carmelo-to-the-Cavaliers rumor has festered for weeks now, with some reports even claiming that the Cavaliers would trade Kevin Love straight up for Anthony. However, I find these claims to be ridiculous. Love is four years younger than Anthony, a superior three-point shooter, and he finally appears fully acclimated to the Cleveland roster.

Disrupting team chemistry to acquire an inferior player makes minimal sense for the Cavaliers, who should instead be targeting a backup point guard who can take some of the pressure off LeBron James and Kyrie Irving.

Even if the Cavaliers could acquire Anthony without giving up Love, I do not think they should pursue it. For a team already operating with a limited number of first round picks, the Cavaliers would also have to surrender vital bench players like J.R. Smith and Channing Frye in order to make the salaries work. It is also highly likely that the Knicks could get a much better return for Anthony than whatever the Cavaliers could muster up without Love.

The Los Angeles Clip-

pers have also been mentioned as an option for Anthony, and I believe this is a more likely destination for him. Anthony is good friends with point guard Chris Paul, and the Clippers may view Anthony as an upgrade on the wing that could help them be more competitive against the Warriors and the Rockets in a playoff series.

However, the Clippers also lack substantial assets to offer the Knicks in any trade, especially if they are unwilling to part with Chris Paul, Blake Griffin or DeAndre Jordan. Nevertheless, it is possible that the Knicks become desperate to rid themselves of Anthony if he becomes a distraction or tells the team that he will only accept a trade to Los Angeles.

I personally believe that Anthony will only want to play in a large market, making this last option remote from the onset. However, an Anthony trade to the Oklahoma City Thunder could be mutually beneficial for all sides involved. The Thunder could offer dynamic post scorer Enes Kanter, young point guard prospect Cameron Payne, rookie stretch forward Domantas Sabonis and picks in a deal for Anthony.

The Thunder would receive a veteran scoring option on the wing to ease some of the scoring burden for Russell Westbrook, while keeping their core, Steven Adams and Victor Oladipo, intact. The Knicks would get an excellent return for their star, setting them up to successfully rebuild around Porzingis and a multitude of young talent.

It is unlikely that Anthony would approve of a move to the Thunder, but it would put him in position to play on a playoff-contending team alongside a top-five star in Russell Westbrook. Regardless of the outcome, it seems apparent that Carmelo Anthony's days in New York are numbered. Where he ends up is anyone's guess at this point.

SPORTS

Men's track dominates at Ursinus invitational

By EMILIE HOFFER
Sports Editor

The Hopkins men's track and field team saw yet another weekend of Conference-leading performances and personal bests. The Blue Jays arrived in Collegeville, Pa. this past Sunday to compete in the Frank Colden Invitational hosted by Ursinus College.

The men had an impressive showing at the Frank Colden Invitational, highlighted by senior Mitchell Keller's season best throw in the shot put. Keller took second place in the event, throwing just short of his career-best mark of 14.05 meters. Additionally, his performance earned him Centennial Conference Men's Field Athlete of the Week honors.

On the track, the men dominated their competition in the mile run, taking the top three spots in the event. Crossing the line in 4:26, sophomore Alex Condotti earned the individual title.

On his heels were freshman teammates Vipul Bhat and Andrew King, who crossed the line in 4:28 and 4:29, respectively.

Missing from the action in Collegeville was the men's distance medley relay (DMR) team, who traveled to Winston-Salem, N.C. to compete in the Camel City Invitational on Saturday.

At 11:25 a.m., sophomore Scott Pourshalchi started for the first leg of the 4,000-meter DMR. Pourshalchi finished his 1200-meter leg of the race in 3:05, handing off the baton in third to senior Jesse Poore.

Poore took over for the second and quickest leg of the race. Running the 400-meter, the longest of the sprint events, Poore finished his leg of the race in a quick 49.85 seconds, to move the Jays into second place.

Next was the 800-meter leg of the race, where freshman Brett Wolfinger took over for the Jays. Finishing the half mile in 1:55, Wolfinger held onto third for the Jays as he handed the baton off to teammate senior Tom Pavarini for the final leg of the race.

The anchor leg, which many consider to be the

toughest leg of the race, is also the longest. A lot can happen in a 1600-meter race, as runners know all too well.

Pavarini was in a tough but perfect position. The front runners during the 800-meter leg — Campbell University, Christopher Newport University and Hopkins — were separated by less than a second when they handed the baton to their anchors.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in fourth place, was only three seconds behind them.

Host team, Campbell University, took first with their quick 4:10 anchor leg from sophomore Kelvin Kirui. Meanwhile, Christopher Newport held onto second just two seconds behind

the leader.

"Each leg is so important and we all need to be at our best."

— SCOTT POURSHALCHI, SOPHOMORE

not hold onto a top three spot, as both North Carolina and Mount Olive managed to pass the Jays during the final leg of the race.

Still, Hopkins, clocking a time of 10:07, proved that they have the potential to be a national contender come championship season.

"We are hoping to qualify for nationals, but we need to be closer to 10:00," Pourshalchi said. "This was the first time the four of us ran the DMR together, so we really focused on our handoffs."

Despite running seven seconds slower than their target goal this past weekend, the Blue Jays' time ranks third best among D-III this year. Not to mention, their performance topped the previous Centennial Conference leader, McDaniel College, by over 30 seconds.

"Each leg is so important and we all need to be at our best," Pourshalchi said.

With NCAA Championships a little over a month away, the Jays will be looking to perfect their already impressive performance.

This weekend the Blue Jays will be travelling both near and far to compete.

The team will split up, with some to compete in nearby Annapolis, Md. for the Navy Multisport Invite on Feb. 9.

Meanwhile, the rest of the team will travel to Boston, Mass. for the Boston University Valentine Invitational taking place on Feb. 10 and 11.

By ESTHER HONG
Staff Writer

Last week, the Hopkins women's basketball team overcame a 10-point deficit at the end of the first half to seal the victory against the Gettysburg College Bullets in overtime. The final score of the game was 84-83.

Several Blue Jays made standout plays: Sophomore guard Lexie Scholtz tallied 11 points and 12 rebounds, sophomore forward Rory Cole recorded three crucial rebounds in the first quarter and sophomore guard Madison McGrath drained a three-point shot right at the halftime buzzer.

All Jays contributed to the win, but *The News-Letter* would specifically like to acknowledge sophomore guard Lillian Scott for scoring not only a game-high but also a career-high of 37 points, 31 of which were recorded during the second half.

Scott made 12 field goals, including five

three-pointers. She went eight-for-nine from the free throw line, including the game-winning free throw shot. Scott's 37 points in a single game was a record just two points shy of the program's all-time record, which Cindy Harper set during the 1985-1986 season.

As a freshman, Scott appeared in all 25 games, including three starts. She tallied a total of 88 points, 38 rebounds,

41 assists, six blocks and 15 steals by the end of her first season at Hopkins. This season, Scott has already racked up 311 points

and has started all but one game. She averages 16.4 points per game, and currently sits as the third leading scorer in the Centennial Conference.

The News-Letter had the opportunity to speak with Scott and gain some insight on her thoughts on the remainder of the season.

The News-Letter: What was the turning

point during last week's game against Gettysburg?

Lillian Scott: At half-time, we changed our defensive approach, which proved to be successful, as we got more stops which translated to more offensive opportunities.

N-L: What are your thoughts on the season so far?

LS: I think there are some games we play up to our potential and other games we don't. Lately, we have been playing well, and we hope to keep the momentum going over the next few weeks.

N-L: What are your goals for the remainder of the season?

LS: Personally, I would like to see us compete at our highest level, and I think if we are successful in doing that, we will have an opportunity to make the playoffs.

N-L: Where have you personally, and the team as a whole, improved the most this season?

LS: I think defensively we have drastically improved as well as dominating the boards, which has lead to a better transition offense.

N-L: Currently ranked seventh in the Centennial



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Sophomore guard Lillian Scott.

Conference, what will the team need to do for the remaining few games to clinch a spot in the playoffs?

LS: I think we need to play our best basketball during the remaining games and reach our peak at the right time. That's the only thing we can control about making the playoffs since so many other teams are involved.

But if we do that, we can be proud of our effort, regardless of what happens in the postseason.

N-L: Aside from playing basketball, what other activities are you involved with on campus?

LS: I'm a computer science major, and I'm in Phi Mu.

The Blue Jays will be back on the court in Goldfarb Gym tonight, Feb. 9, to take on Haverford College at 7 p.m.

Way too early, DanLand's 2017 AFC predictions

AFC, FROM B12

solid, but their defense needs major improvements.

The defense's leader, veteran James Harrison, is continuing to age and may potentially not even return to play next season. Building a Super Bowl-caliber defense will be difficult, and until I see a clear difference on the field, I cannot pick the Steelers to come out on top of the division. However, they should play well enough to claim a wild card spot.

The AFC South is up for grabs, as none of the four teams should be counted out. The Houston Texans have won the division each of the past two years essentially by default. However, the Texans have a glaring hole at quarterback and they will no longer be able to rely on the ineptitude of their division mates to find relative success.

The Indianapolis Colts and Jacksonville Jaguars both still have numerous issues to sort out, but the Tennessee Titans have finally arrived, following a rebuild that lasted much longer than expected.

After years of searching for a competent caller, Tennessee finally found its man at quarterback in Marcus Mariota. The former Heisman winner showed considerable improvement in his second season as a pro. Accordingly, the team saw its win total increase from three to nine. Mariota suffered a major fibula injury in week 16, but he is expected to be back at full strength in time for the start of next season.

With DeMarco Murray, Derrick Henry, Dela-

nie Walker and Rishard Matthews complementing Mariota on the offensive side of the ball and an adequate set of players on defense, the Titans are trending upwards. They should be the clear-cut favorites to come out of the wide open AFC South division next season. Additionally, look for Tennessee to further solidify its roster with its two first round selections in the upcoming draft.

The West is the AFC's best division from top to bottom. This makes predicting its hierarchy a difficult task. The Oakland Raiders are coming off their best season in over a decade, in large part due to the emergence of Derek Carr, who is making his case to be considered one of the League's elite quarterbacks.

The Denver Broncos are one year removed from a Super Bowl crown, and they still have many of the pieces intact from the star-studded defensive unit that carried them to that

championship.

Even the Los Angeles Chargers have a chance to claim a division title. With a fresh start in Los Angeles under new head coach Anthony Lynn and a handful of playmakers on both sides of the ball, there are plenty of reasons for the League's most recently relocated franchise to be optimistic.

However, the Kansas City Chiefs are the cream of the crop out West. Under Andy Reid, Kansas City continues to fly under the radar year after year, despite having accumulated a 43-21 record during Reid's tenure.

The Chiefs are not flashy, but they limit their mistakes and therefore are very well balanced. Nevertheless, don't expect them to make a deep run once they reach the playoffs, as more skilled quarterbacks tend to outplay Alex Smith when it matters most.

As for the other three teams in the division, one should be able to seize one of the Conference's two wild card spots. While it is very tempting to pick the Raiders to return to the playoffs, their ineffective defense, aside from Khalil Mack, is a major issue that will hold them back from building upon their success last season.

The Denver Broncos are also a solid pick to reach the playoffs, but unlike the other teams that I predict will reach the playoffs, they do not have a stable quarterback. I am going to go out on a limb and pick the Chargers, a team under the leadership of veteran Pro Bowler Philip Rivers, to sneak into the playoffs for the first time since the 2013 season.

A year from now, when all is said and done, I see the Baltimore Ravens coming out on top in the AFC, but expect the Conference to be highly competitive.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

Mitchell Keller, Conference Field Athlete of the week.



KEITH ALLISON// CC BY-SA 2.0

DanLand predicts the Baltimore Ravens to end up on top of the AFC in the coming 2017 season.

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

When the Hopkins women's basketball team hosts the Haverford Fords on Nov. 9, the team will be supporting women's cancer awareness and research through the WBCA Play4Kay initiative.

CALENDAR

Friday:
Track @ Boston Invitational
Saturday:
W. basketball @ Swarthmore; 4 p.m.
M. lax vs. UMBC; 1 p.m.
M. basketball @ Swarthmore; 3 p.m.
Fencing @ Duke Invitational

AFC contenders gear up for next season



Daniel Landy
DanLand

Let me just start out by saying this: The collection of championships played over the last 12 months is the greatest I have ever seen. The bar was set from the start with the NCAA College Basketball Championships and the Villanova Wildcats' buzzer-beater victory over the North Carolina Tar Heels in April. In the NBA, the Cleveland Cavaliers' epic comeback against the Golden State Warriors followed in June. In the MLB in November, the Chicago Cubs had an unbelievable comeback of their own, which culminated into a nail-biting game seven victory. That set the stage for this winter's football championships, which closed out the 12-month cycle in an outstanding fashion.

The Clemson University Tigers put on a show in the 2017 College Football Playoff National Championship against the University of Alabama

The Patriots are good enough to win any division in football.

Crimson Tide in January, leaving Super Bowl LI as the final piece of the puzzle. I think it is fair to say that the New England Patriots did their part and then some, with a historic, come-from-behind victory over the Atlanta Falcons in quite possibly the greatest Super Bowl that has ever been played.

For the most part, this NFL season was an entertaining one. There was no shortage of surprises, from the Dallas Cowboys and Oakland Raiders blossoming under the wings of their young quarterbacks to the Denver Broncos and Carolina Panthers failing to rekindle their magic from the previous season.

Odell Beckham Jr.'s ongoing antics, the Los Angeles Rams' almost immediate decline in relevance and the Cleveland Browns' absolutely shameful campaign provided interesting storylines throughout the season.

As for the playoffs, the early rounds were certainly uninspiring, but the Super Bowl more than made up for them.

Now, with the NFL season behind us, let's take a look into the crystal ball and make some predictions for next season. Though any predictions might be premature, this week I will explore the American Football Conference (AFC).

Let's start with the AFC East, where the defending champions, the New Eng-

land Patriots, should have no reason for concern. Their path to the division title should be a relatively easy one, just as it has been for 13 of the past 14 seasons.

As the best 21st century football team, led by the greatest quarterback and coach of all time, the Patriots are good enough to win any division in football. However, the weakness of their division foes will make their chances of winning the division in 2017 almost a given.

The Patriots' only conceivable adversary within the division will be the Miami Dolphins, who just reached the playoffs for the first time since 2008. However, Miami's tough schedule in the coming season will hinder its ability to continue its newfound success going forward.

The Buffalo Bills, under new coach Sean McDermott, face uncertainty at quarterback, with Tyrod Taylor's return to the team looking increasingly unlikely. The New York Jets are in disarray, as they try to sort out what went wrong in a season that saw their win total drop from 10 games in 2015 to five games in 2016.

The bottom line is that this is the Patriots' divi-

sion to win, and as they have proven again and again during the past several decades, they rarely cease to take what is theirs.

Up north, the picture is a bit hazier. The Pittsburgh Steelers and the Baltimore Ravens are perennial contenders. Until this past season, the Cincinnati Bengals had been enjoying a lengthy period of success as well.

The Cleveland Browns, on the other hand, are several seasons away from any sort of contention. Regardless of who Cleveland selects in the first overall pick in the draft, it will presumably finish in the cellar of the AFC North yet again.

In Cincinnati, the Bengals seem destined to have another mediocre season due to several doubts that have recently arisen on their defensive side. They can no longer be associated with the talented Steelers and Ravens, two teams that will inevitably slug it out all the way through week 17.

In recent years, the AFC North has been defined by its parity. No team has won the division in consecutive years since the Ravens in 2011 and 2012. Expect the trend to continue and for Baltimore to improve enough to hold off the Steelers from atop the division.

The Steelers, who won the AFC North this season, have a lot of work to do after being embarrassed by the Patriots in the AFC Championship game. Their offense is

SEE AFC, PAGE B11.

M. track sets records at Frank Colden Invite



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

The Hopkins men's track team put on a dominating performance at the Frank Colden Invitational this past weekend, setting a number of personal bests and priming themselves for a strong showing at the D-III National Championships later this spring. The Distance Medley team trekked to Winston Salem, N.C. to compete in the Camel City Invitational. With their time of 10:07 in the event, the team smashed the Centennial Conference record set by McDaniel College earlier in the season by over 30 seconds. **B11**

INSIDE

Super Bowl: Patriots defy the odds again

Gaurav Verma argues that Tom Brady and Bill Belichick have consistently defied the odds throughout their careers, capping it off with an incredible rally on Sunday.

PAGE B10

NBA: Carmelo at a crossroads

Andrew Johnson discusses the downfall of Carmelo Anthony in New York, offering up potential trade partners that could be interested in the star forward.

PAGE B10

AOTW: Lillian Scott

This week, *The News-Letter* honors sophomore guard Lillian Scott, who scored a career high 37 points in the overtime win against Gettysburg.

PAGE B11

INSIDE

M. basketball win streak stopped at seven

By GREGORY MELICK
Staff Writer

The Hopkins men's basketball team faced off at home on Wednesday, Feb. 1 against the Gettysburg College Bullets. Hopkins came into the home game riding a six-game winning streak and tied for first among Centennial Conference teams.

The Blue Jays carried their momentum into a stellar defensive performance and decisive 67-47 victory over the Bullets. They held Gettysburg's leading scorer, senior forward Cody Kiefer, to three points on 0-4 shooting. Kiefer also came into the contest as the leading rebounder in the Centennial Conference, averaging 7.7 rebounds per game but was held to only two rebounds against the Jays.

On the offensive side, Hopkins was led by graduate student forward Sam Gordon, who scored 20 points and pulled down nine rebounds. Additionally, senior forward Ryan Curran was able to make a decisive impact with 15 points and eight re-

bounds of his own.

Sophomore guard Michael Gardner, who contributed 17 points against the Bullets, attributed the Jays' winning streak to three simple things.

"Ball movement, shooting and defense," Gardner said. "The team has a lot of guys who can score the ball, [making the team] tough to guard as a whole."

This is evident as four different Blue Jays averaged over 10 points per game: Gardner, Gordon, Curran and junior forward Kyle Doran. Moving toward their next game against the Dickinson College Red Devils, Hopkins had the momentum and the confidence to avenge the last team to have beaten them. Following their loss to Dickinson, the Jays were able to reel off seven straight victories.

Hopkins was hot from the start, leading by nine points at halftime. However, the tables turned in the second half and the Red Devils dominated. The Blue Jays were pushed out of rhythm, unable to handle the ball

the way they had been previously. The Jays fell to the Red Devils by four points.

Doran led the way for the Jays, with 13 points and 10 rebounds for his second double-double of the year. Gardner and Gordon contributed 13 and 10 points, respectively.

Dickinson capitalized on the Blue Jays' hiccup with a balanced scoring attack; Of the nine players to see the court, eight of them scored at least four points. Their leading scorers were sophomore Elijah Wright (12 points) and junior Justus Melton (11 points).

Doran explained what caused the Jays to falter in the second half.

"We turned the ball over and had very few assists," he said.

This was reflected in the final box score, as the Blue Jays totaled only five as-

sists compared to their 17 turnovers.

The loss broke the tie at the top of the Centennial Conference, as the Swarthmore College Garnet went 2-0 on the week to claim sole possession of first place with a 11-3 Conference record.

The Blue Jays now stand tied for second in the Centennial with Ursinus College. However, Hopkins holds the tiebreaker after winning both matchups with Ursinus in the regular season.

With their sights set on the Conference title, the Blue Jays will face off this Saturday against Swarthmore College for the first of four remaining regular season games. Gardner explained what it would take for the Blue Jays to win the Conference. "We need to keep playing for each other," Gardner said.

Wrestling pinned in tough end to season

By BRANDON WOLFE
For The News-Letter

The grapplers of the Hopkins wrestling team were unable to claim victory in their dual meet this past weekend which pitted the Blue Jays against Centennial Conference foes Stevens Institute of Technology (SIT) and Washington and Lee University (W&L) in Lexington, Va.

The Blue Jays were coming off a weekend when they had split a pair of Centennial Conference bouts, losing against Get-

tysburg College and winning against local rival McDaniel College. The Jays also emerged victorious in a non-Conference bout against the Hampden-Sydney College Tigers.

The weekend was especially productive for sophomores Ricky Cavallo and Isaac Morales, juniors Christian Vallis and Tommy Grifa and senior Jared Forman, all of whom posted 3-0 records against their opponents. Forman managed to pin his opponent from Hampden-Sydney in 44 seconds. **SEE WRESTLING, PAGE B10.**



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

Sam Gordon led the team with 20 points in the win against Gettysburg.